

Present: Brandy Randall (*Chair*), Seong Cho, Kris Condic (*Ex Officio*), Darrin Hanna, Meghan Harris (*Co-Chair*), Lisa Hawley, Joanne Lipson Freed, Daniel Llamocca, Robert Noiva, Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Meir Shillor, V. Thandi Sule, Kris Thompson

Not Present:

Staff: Celia Knobelsdorf (Secretary)

The meeting held remotely

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Graduate Enrollment

Currently closely looking at enrollment. We reached the data of record last week and are down a total of 2% in head count when compared to the same time last year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes for the March 18, 2020 Graduate Council

Deferred until the next Graduate Council meeting to review March 2020 minutes.

B. Approval of the Minutes for the September 15, 2021 Graduate Council

Meghan Harris moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2021 Graduate Council Meeting. Kris Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Outstanding Graduate Mentor Subcommittee

Typically this was done a little later in the year. However, what happened last year before the application were even due, Dr. Randall received a message from the Provost Office that deadline to submit the name of the award winner was coming up very soon. This was news as it clearly had followed the pattern of previous years. We have received communication from the Provost Office regarding the timing of our award winners name due date, and it is early in January 2022. This means we have had to put out the all for nominees to students quite a bit earlier than in the past. We will be updating the deadline to reflect the new date of November 1, 2021 on the information and criteria guidelines for the subcommittee. The closing date of submission on November 1, 2021 will allow the subcommittee to meet and present at the December Graduate Council meeting for vote. We will then be able to get the awardees name to the Provost Office by January. We have made a slight modification to this process in our office. Historically one person was in charge of getting the announcements out and Celia would collect the nominations and get them to the subcommittee. Beginning this year, the entire process will be managed by Celia. There are typically three individuals need to sit on this subcommittee. Only eligible names will forwarded to the subcommittee. Dr. Randall and Celia built a date in to meet and go over the nominees filtering out individuals who do not meet the criteria before submitting them the subcommittee for review. Last year there was a nominee that was not a tenured track faculty and Council discussed changing the criteria open it up to all faculty that mentor students. Kris Thompson asked if the call for nominees reflected that change. This did not happen, if Council wants to change the criteria work will be done this year on changing the criteria it will be brought to Council at a later date.

Kris Thompson discussed the process for the 2021 nominations. Subcommittee used a form while reviewing the nominations. Each subcommittee member brought their top three to the discussion. This was whittled down to three or four nominees that were brought to the full Graduate Council. Meghan Harris, Kris Thompson and Thandi Sule graciously offered to be on the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Subcommittee for 2022 nominee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Revised Version of Transfer Policy

We have had a lot of dissatisfaction with the current transfer policy for graduate students, which only allows for a very limited number transfer credits regardless of the length of the program. There are two aspects to the draft policy. One which would allow up to 49% of the credits required for a graduate certificate or degree to be transferred from another institution. At least 51% of the credits required for the credential must be earned in the program at Oakland University. If

students are receiving a credit reduction because of a master's degree or graduate certificate that was awarded prior to entering the program, the number of credits that may be transferred to Oakland will be reduced. It would also expand eligible transfer credits to include those graded with Pass or Satisfactory grade. The other would provide an exception for students coming to Oakland with a new faculty hire.

Students transferring credit must still take OU coursework evaluated with a letter grade in order to achieve the minimum GPA of 3.0, as transferred coursework does not factor into the OU GPA. We want to protect the integrity of our degrees and not violate HLC. All transfer credits would have to be requested by the graduate program and approved the Graduate School. Each program will evaluate the credits to be transferred and identify the equivalent in the Plan of Study. The rationale for this it helps maintain the internal consistency and coherence of our degrees.

After extensive discussion, revisions will be made to the policy and will be brought to the next Graduate Council meeting as a first reading. When going to Senate Dr. Randall requested a Graduate Council member who is faculty also attend to give an academic perspective on this policy. Meghan Harris generously offered to attend.

GOOD AND WELFARE

A. Graduate Courses Considered for Either Master's or Doctoral

Dr. Shillor brought the concern of graduate courses that are considered for either a master's or PhD. However, all our graduate courses are open to whoever can take them. Is there any way to set them all up as graduate courses so that we can avoid transfer and counting them toward either master or doctoral degrees? It was explained that while graduate courses can be taken by qualified students, undergraduate, master or doctoral, the course will appear on the transcript level matching the level of the enrolled student. This issue is when students are master's students their transcript lives on one level and PhD students transcripts are on another level. This is an issue with Banner. Currently there is nothing OU can do about it. This is how the system was set up. To fix this would be costly, as consultant time would be needed to assist with the Banner piece then staff time to resolve it. Hopefully the new CIO will be able to assist in the matter of when technology does not meet the need of academics.

B. Courses completed as undergraduate students policy removal

Dr. Hanna readdressed the removal of the courses completed as undergraduate student policy that was approved at the September 15, 2021 Graduate Council. Dr. Hanna inquired whether the Graduate School would approve exceptions submitted on a case-by-case basis. The Graduate School will try to work with students who had already taken such courses prior to the policy being approved, though we may be limited in our ability to do so by Financial Aid policies. Dean Randall suggested he consider the development of 4+1 programs. The 4+1 program provides far more advantages to the same student population. Claire Rammel, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School will work with Dr. Hanna on potential 4+1 programs.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:16 p.m.