

Oakland University
Graduate Council Minutes

Monday, January 26, 2026

1:30 – 3:30pm

Virtual

Graduate Council Member Attendees: Brandy Randall (Chair), Claire Rammel (Ex Officio), Darrin Hanna, Anne Hranchook (Co-Chair), Linda Hutcheson (Secretary), John Krauss, Joanne Lipson-Freed, Daniel Llamocca Obregon, Victoria Lucia, Thandi Sulé, Meir Shillor, Paul Weinberg, Helen Levenson

Guests: Alicia Arbour, Neil Baumgartner, Nicole Boelk, Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Tricia Westergaard

Members Absent: Henry Aigbedo (sabbatical)

Presenters: Kristine Thompson

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- Engineering and Computer Science Day held Saturday, January 24, 2026
 - Numbers were lower than expected as it was the coldest day of the year (well below zero). Attendees were enthusiastic and some had clear intention to apply
 - Preliminary data shows that for events held during the last two years, the number of people matriculating after attending or just signing up to attend those events is high.
- Badging
 - The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost will fund a Faculty Fellow for Summer and Fall semesters to focus on work needed to move forward on badging campus-wide.
- Graduate School Staffing
 - Assistant Dean Mark Tomaszewski is still out on leave until the beginning of February, as is Nidhi Khatree. Tina Tucker will be on leave beginning the first week of February. We also have 3 open positions.
 - Human Resources has approved the interviewing pool for the open recruiter position, and are likely close to approval for the pool for Alicia Arbour's old position. Mark's old position has been revised, and has a good applicant pool.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul Weinberg introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the January 12, 2026, meeting. John Krauss seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. Computer Science and Informatics, PhD, graduate program modification, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Guangzhi Qu, Lanyu Xu)
Reviewers: Anne Hranchook, Meir Shillor

Joanne Lipson Freed moved to approve the proposal to be amended by the Graduate School to include a category of Electives for a total of 32 credits for students without a prior Master's degree. Meir Shillor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Music, MM, graduate program modification to merge the Conducting, Vocal Pedagogy, Vocal Performance, Instrumental Performance, Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy, Music Education, and World Percussion Master of Music programs into a single Master of Music degree program with multiple concentrations, Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre and Dance (Melissa Hoag, Beth Dawson)

Reviewers: Joanne Lipson Freed, John Krauss

John Krauss moved to waive the second reading and to approve. Anne Hranchook seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Human Movement Science, PhD, graduate program modification to add credit for prior learning, Department of Human Movement Sciences, School of Health Science (Kristine Thompson, John Krauss)

Reviewers: Darrin Hanna, Victoria Lucia

Victoria Lucia moved to waive the second reading and approve. John Krauss seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Applied Early Childhood Practice and Policy, EdD, new graduate degree, Department of Human Development and Child Studies, School of Education and Human Services (Tomoko Wakabyashi)

Reviewers: Joanne Lipson-Freed, Meir Shillor

Meir Shillor moved to waive the second reading and approve. Paul Weinberg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2026 Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award – nominee selection, (Graduate Council)

The Graduate Council chose Kris Thompson as final tenure-line award recipient and Jacqueline Scully as final non-tenure line award recipient for the 2026 Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award.

Items 2 and 3 were not discussed due to lack of time and will be at the top of the Graduate Council's next meeting's agenda.

2. Reducing minimum number of PhD program credits

3. Program Review: Rubric, Subcommittee report

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:36pm.