

Oakland University
Graduate Council Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2026

1:30 – 3:30pm

In-person and Online

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

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

Guests Absent: Neil Baumgartner

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- New Graduate Council member
 - The GC welcomed Yaman Roumani who is serving for Henry Aigbedo who is on sabbatical this semester.
- Graduate School staffing
 - Graduate School Assistant Dean Mark Tomaszewski has returned from leave.
 - Ruben Moraes started working as the GS's new recruiter today.
 - The new Grad Team 3 Lead has been hired and will start in a couple of weeks.
 - The search committee for Mark's renamed and modified previous position has received many highly qualified applicants. Mark anticipates they will move to interviews quite soon.
- Three Minute Thesis and Graduate Student Showcase (3MT/GSS)
 - There have been a record number of students sign up for this year's events with campus-wide representation.
 - The feedback session also had the highest turnout they've ever had.
 - Council members are encouraged to attend.
- GS Graduate Assistant Xavier Iriarte
 - Resources compiled by Xavier will be shared soon.
 - He has office hours for graduate students in various locations around campus.
- New draft federal government guidelines are available regarding what is considered a program change.
 - An official communication to faculty and staff with details and suggested actions will come out soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul Weinberg introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the January 26, 2026, meeting. Anne Hranchook seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. Reducing minimum number of PhD program credits, Graduate School policy revision, to decrease the minimum number of Doctor of Philosophy program credits from 80 to 60, Graduate Council (Brandy Randall)

Joanne Lipson-Freed moved to approve version three of the policy revision. Victoria Lucia seconded. One opposed, the motion carried.

2. Program Review: Rubric, Subcommittee report
Subcommittee members: Joanne Lipson-Freed, Anne Hranchook, John Krauss
 - Subcommittee members shared their experiences using the review tool that they are developing.
 - Further discussion is planned for the next Graduate Council meeting's agenda.

There was not adequate time to discuss Continuing Business items 3-5, New Business item 1, and Discussion Items 1-2. They will return on the next Graduate Council meeting's agenda.

3. Graduate Course Instruction by Programs Not Authorized to Offer a Graduate Degree, graduate school policy revision - review of further revision done per discussion that led to approval of revision approved on November 3, 2025, Graduate Council (Brandy Randall)
4. Approved Graduate Certificates, graduate school policy revision, Graduate Council (Brandy Randall)
5. K-12 Dance Education, GC, new graduate certificate, Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance (Beth Dawson, Elizabeth Kattner)
Reviewers: Henry Aigbedo, Daniel Llamocca

NEW BUSINESS

1. Journalism and Media Studies, Specialization in Media and Society, B.A./Communication, M.A., Combined B.A./M.A, new combined degree, Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences (Beth Dawson, Kathleen Battles)
Reviewers: Thandi Sulé, Paul Weinberg

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2026 Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award - nominee selection process (subcommittee: Victoria Lucia, Meir Shillor, and Paul Weinberg)
2. Dissertation Article Format Requirements, graduate school policy revision: Subcommittee report, Graduate Council (Brandy Randall) (Subcommittee: Paul Weinberg, Thandi Sulé, and Victoria Lucia)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.