

Present:

Brandy Randall, (*Chair*), Joanne Lipson-Freed (*Co-Chair*), Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Henry Aigbedo, Darrin Hanna, Anne Hranchook, John Krauss, Victoria Lucia, Daniel Llamocca Obregon, Meir Shillor, Paul Weinberg, Neil Baumgartner, Nicole Boelk

Absent: Helen Levenson, Thandi Sulé

Staff: Linda Hutcheson (*Secretary*)

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- Introductions
 - Graduate School Dean Brandy Randall welcomed the School of Business Administration's representative to the Graduate Council, Professor Henry Aigbedo, and thanked him for agreeing to serve.
 - Brandy also welcomed Assistant Vice-President of Advising Neil Baumgartner, new regular Graduate Council Guest and representative for the Professional Advisers Council (PAC) group.
 - Graduate Council members introduced themselves.
- Selection of Vice-Chair
 - Joanne Lipson-Freed has been filling the role of Graduate Council Vice-Chair for two years.
 - Brandy asked Joanne if she would be interested in continuing, and asked if anyone else was interested in the role.
 - Joanne expressed willingness to serve in the Fall, but, she will be on sabbatical during the Winter 2025 term. John Krauss expressed willingness to serve as co-chair in the Winter.

Brandy Randall asked Graduate Council members if all were in support of having Joanne Lipson-Freed continue as Graduate Council Vice-Chair for the 2024-2025 AY, with John Kraus serving in during Winter 2025. All members unanimously agreed.

- Updated Graduate Council governance deadlines and comments
 - In order to meet Course Program of Study (CPOS) requirements, the Graduate School will be more assertive with governance deadlines and will be emphasizing the following with academic departments.
 - Proposals must be completely filled out and have any requested documentation uploaded to Curriculog before being considered as completed proposals by the Graduate Council. Only completed proposals will be submitted to the Graduate Council for review. Review takes approximately two weeks prior to the Graduate Council meeting.
 - Last day to submit proposal for new UG/Grad combined program and UG/Grad combined program modification to UCUI: Oct 15
 - Last day to submit proposal for new graduate program: Oct 15
 - Last day to submit proposal for graduate program modification or new graduate certificate: Jan 15
 - Last day to submit proposal for course action: Mar 1

- It was clarified that for the deadlines listed above the proposals must be on the Graduate Council agenda by those dates, not just in Curriculog.
 - Be aware that proposal submission does not guarantee approval by the Graduate Council, the Senate, or the Board of Trustees, if relevant. Additionally, proposal submission does not guarantee eligibility for financial aid, eligibility for enrollment by international students, or that a program/certificate or program/certificate modification will launch in a particular term.
- Enrollment update
 - Graduate enrollment for New Students is down, but Credit Hours are up for Fall 2024.
 - Part of this is due to the efforts of Master of Social Work Program Coordinator Maria Beam.
 - Unfortunately, the Master of Physician Science (MPAS) was not successful in obtaining preliminary provisional accreditation. Oakland subsequently withdrew their accreditation application and plans to resubmit after doing what is necessary to make requested improvements with the intention of having the program begin in January 2026 which will allow it to be financial aid eligible for the entire length of the program.
- General updates since April 2024
 - Graduate School and PACE Staffing
 - The Graduate School is down staff with three of four open positions posted.
 - Recruiter Nichole Fernandez-Jurado moved out of state. The timing of this loss is especially challenging for Todd Steele as Fall is a busy time for recruitment.
 - Currently down two CTs. Former Graduate School CT Kelly Robinson is now with the Medical School. Molly Swiatowy has moved from a CT to the AP position that was open on the student-facing teams before this.
 - Long time and founding Director of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) Lori Crose has retired.
 - Assistant Director Carrie Sliwinski has taken on additional duties to help fill in.
 - In October, Lori will become a part-time casual employee and will be continuing to work with custom programs.
 - Brandy and Lori have revised the position description for the PACE Director role to be 'Executive Director of PACE and be a 'U' level AP role. There will be a national search.
 - Graduate School Faculty Fellow & Graduate Student Professional Development
 - Over the summer, Thandi Sulé began serving as the first ever Graduate School Faculty Fellow and is working on launching more professional development and networking options for graduate students.
 - Jessica Williams, in cooperation with Dr. Sulé spearheaded organizing tomorrow night's National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Information Session for both students and faculty. Presenters will be Michael Spires (Office of Research), Scott Tiegs (Professor of Biological Sciences), and Brandy Randall
 - Graduate Assistant (GA) salary increases and Wellness Stipends
 - Graduate Assistants that paid the minimum stipend will receive the same % of salary increase that non-bargained employees receive.
 - Graduate Assistants will also receive a Wellness stipend for Fall and Winter semesters to help students pay for their health care needs. 50% of the total stipend will be distributed to students in September, and 50% in January. The stipend will be prorated for GAs who are less than full-time.

- The first ever New Graduate Student Welcome Reception was really well attended, and several students conveyed to Brandy they were grateful there was a reception. Campus leadership was well-represented at the reception.
- The Graduate and Professional Student Advisory Council (GPSAC) held their third meeting this summer.
 - Their two current goals are to develop a graduate and professional student organization that would be open to all graduate students on campus, and to establish a graduate student volunteer program.
 - They are also making it a point to have representation from their council at every campus event open to graduate students.
- Federal Policy Changes and Compliance
 - Many new federal policies and changes to existing federal policies went into effect on July 1, 2024. The Graduate School is having to do a lot to achieve compliance.
 - Admission applicants to programs leading to licensing credentials are now required to provide attestations declaring where they live so that Oakland University can alert the student as to whether or not that degree program will lead to licensure where the student lives. If they intend to live in a state where the program would not allow for licensure, we cannot admit them.
 - Complying with Gainful Employment policies is pushing the need for Oakland to discuss a clear process for sunseting certificates that have very low or no enrollment.
 - A note will be added to the Program Coordinators manual about what academic departments need to provide to the Graduate School when academic departments or the Graduate School want to sunset a program.
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is now allowing undergraduate degrees for fewer than 120 credits. Discussing the implications of this on graduate admissions will be added to a future Graduate Council meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joanne Lipson-Freed introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the April 15, 2024, meeting. John Krauss seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

CONTINUING BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Stackable Graduate Certificate Programs, New Graduate School Policy: first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: N/A

Presenter(s): Brandy Randall

The Graduate School has been doing this in practice but it is important to make it part of policy and provide clarity on what is and isn't allowed. Upon admission, student's Plans of Study must show how

individual courses from completed stackable certificate meet degree requirements. The need to specify that graduate certificates were obtained at Oakland University was discussed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update regarding AI and application for graduate study

Brandy reported that she spoke with her peers over the summer, and they are not making updates to their applications. The Graduate Council agreed to do nothing right now and see how it evolves.

Discuss adding the requirement to upload master's theses to ProQuest, and removing the requirement for providing a printed and bound copy for Kresge Library from among Graduate School requirements for graduation of master's and Ph.D. students.

The Council discussed how having master's students submit their theses would raise our national exposure. Brandy added that this would save students money and would save our staff time. Kresge Library would appreciate the change because they will not have to continue to find room for new bound theses and dissertations. Oakland has an online institutional repository housed in the library and ProQuest sends us batch downloads of our doctoral students' dissertations. The addition of master's students' theses to our institutional repository will allow increased access and exposure.

Graduate Council membership changes to Senate Constitution

Brandy explained that although the Council approved changes to Graduate Council membership last year, the changes need to be in the Senate Constitution. We are currently not in compliance with it and will need to go through the process of requesting an amendment.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Darrin Hanna shared that he has heard from a former student that Oakland graduate students get advantages that graduate students at other schools do not get. He heard similarly from other students including a student that left their prior graduate school and came to Oakland to finish their PhD because of those advantages.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:08pm.