

# Oakland University

## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, March 27, 2013 – Meeting #11

Location: 100 KL

Meeting Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Approved: 04/10/2013

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**Present:** Gary Barber, Roman Dembinski, Donna Free, Tamara Hew-Butler, Shawn Lombardo (*Ex Officio*), Robert Noiva, Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Cheryl Riley-Doucet, Darlene Schott-Baer (Chair), Meir Shillor, Carol Swift

**Absent:** Linda Pavonetti (excused) and David Schall (excused)

**Staff:** Tina Muncy

The meeting was convened by Darlene Schott-Baer, Chair, at 2:05 PM.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were unavailable.

### II. INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Schott-Baer distributed copies of the revised Leave of Absence Policy and stated that it would be put on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

Reviewers were assigned as follows to three proposals that have been submitted to the Graduate Council for approval:

- A. **Modifications to the PhD in Education: Early Childhood Education Program**—assigned to Tamara Hew-Butler and Bob Noiva
- B. **Modifications to the Master of Education in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder**—assigned to Donna Free
- C. **Modifications to Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorder, Options A and B**—assigned to Shawn Lombardo

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

**Master of Education in Teacher Leadership Program Modification**—Reviewed by Cheryl Riley-Doucet and Meir Shillor.

**Motion:** To recommend approval of modifications to the Master of Education in Teacher Leadership program modification.

**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

After some discussion, *Ms. Riley-Doucet made a motion to waive the second reading of the Master of Education in Teacher Leadership program modification proposal. Ms. Free seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Ms. Riley-Doucet made a motion to approve the modification of the Master of Education in Teacher Leadership Program. Mr. Shillor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Graduate Certificate: Emotional Impairment**—Reviewed by Tamara Hew-Butler and Shawn Lombardo

**Motion:** To recommend approval of modifications to the Graduate Certificate: Emotional Impairment.

**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

**Graduate Certificate: Specific Learning Disability**—Reviewed by Tamara Hew-Butler and Shawn Lombardo

**Motion:** To recommend approval of modifications to the Graduate Certificate: Specific Learning Disability.

**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

There was some discussion on delivery method of the program courses and about online delivery. A correction of a course number in the list of courses was made correcting SE 592 to be SE 594. The proposals will be on the agenda of the next meeting for the second reading.

**Modifications to the Master of Science in Biology Program**—Reviewed by Bob Noiva and Meir Shillor

**Motion:** To recommend approval of modifications to the Master of Science in Biology program.

**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

**Modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences: Biological Communication Program**—Reviewed by Bob Noiva and Meir Shillor

**Motion:** To recommend approval of modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences: Biological Communication program.

**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Some cosmetic changes were recommended. It was agreed that some clarification was needed in regard to the preliminary courses and whether or not the preliminary course requirement would remain the same; also, what is being done to insure that there is a significant portion at the graduate level within them. There was also question about the time to degree in the master's based on the limited course offering and the plan of study to get the master's students started during the first semester. It was noted that the website descriptions are not correlating with the catalog descriptions. Ms. Schott-Baer stated that she would invite a departmental representative to attend the next meet to clarify some of the council's questions pertaining to the proposals. A summary of discussion issues will be sent to the department.

### **Leave of Absence Policy**

Revision was made to change the word *Doctoral* to *Graduate* students so to also include master's students in the policy. Ms. Rammel recommended that, in the last paragraph of the Request for Leave of Absence policy, it specify that the time-to-completion of degree would be extended for up to two consecutive semesters (Fall/Winter or Winter/Fall); doing this would tie it with the specific verbiage used in regard to time that is in the Leave of Absence policy.

There was some discussion about various programs having the need to require students to meet certain standards/requirements before being allowed to return from a leave of absence; specifically in the medical

programs. The council agreed that this needs to be a generic policy that can be used for every program across the university. The programs requiring more specific requirements can develop their own policy to meet the needs of the discipline.

Ms. Schott-Baer said that she will make the suggested revisions and bring the revised document back to the next meeting for the council to look at again.

#### **Feedback on Credit Hour and Hybrid Definitions**

Ms. Schott-Baer explained that there are two different policies; one which defines credit hour and another that defines the three types of programs. Beginning with credit hour, it was suggested that when courses are not didactic classes, such as a laboratory where there are more contact in the session but is only a one credit course, it doesn't fit the definition of one credit per fifty minute lectures. Ms. Rammel stated that this is the same case with certification and licensing, which is outside of the degree. There was discussion about credit load and credit hours. The credit load defines the work load inside and outside of the classroom where the credit hour for the course is the time that a student is sitting face to face in the classroom.

In regard to the definitions for the three types of programs, the question was raised how online courses would impact in-state tuition. It was suggested that the out-of-state tuition waiver would be given for the 100% online courses. There was discussion that OU currently gives the waiver to out of state students in programs that are 50% online, which makes these programs appealing. It was brought up that the term web enhanced will no longer be used with the proposed new designation because computer literacy is an expectation of all students who attend OU. There was a concern that this would have a negative effect on students, due to economics, who do not have a computer or internet access. It was suggested that there are enough resources on campus for students to always have access to computers and internet, especially with the library now opened twenty four hours. The members discussed the difference between the Primarily Online and Hybrid courses.

#### **V. GOOD AND WELFARE**

No report

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.