

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

**Not Present:** Darrin Hanna, Daniel Llamocca

**Staff:** Celia Knobelsdorf (Secretary)

The meeting held remotely

#### REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

**A. Council of Graduate Schools Master's Exit Survey Grant**

Council of Graduate Schools has awarded Oakland University a grant to conduct a Master's Exit Survey. Ten institutions were going to be selected for the award of \$25,000. This is a National Science Foundation grant to CGS and we are a sub-awardee. The survey will be sent to graduating master's students, to help understand the career trajectories of master's students.

**B. Graduate School Budget**

Unfortunately, due to current economic conditions Oakland University is experiencing a budget deficit. Schools are being asked to make budget cuts. There is a possibility we may have to reduce the number of GA packages. If that is the case, we will prioritize retaining as many doctoral packages as possible, and attempt to cut only packages that have not been awarded.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A. Approval of the Minutes for the February 16, 2022 Graduate Council**

*Kris Thompson moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2022 Graduate Council Meeting. Joanne Lipson-Freed seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

**A. ESL Policy**

Rosemary Max, Executive Director, Global Engagement and Melissa Vervinck, Director of ESL, Global Engagement presented to the Council a modification to the ESL Policy. Proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening English, is needed for students to be successful when completing an academic degree in the United States. All matriculating international applicants, other visa holders, permanent residents and applicants whose first language is not English, must be proficient in English as a requirement to enroll in courses for credit at Oakland University. In 2016, the United States government placed a restriction on international students being conditionally admitted, based on language proficiency. The ability for students who do not meet our English proficiency cutoff for full admission, has varied by visa type. A pathway program allows international students who want to study in the US to take English as a second language (ESL) courses while also taking courses that will count as credit toward their graduate degree. These programs last about a year and generally offer students "limited standing" to the graduate degree program. The proposed modification to the current ESL policy would expect applicants, with evidence of published scores, be granted graduate admission with limited standing to successfully satisfy the ESL course sequence requirement within one year.

**B. Senate Service Learning Committee**

Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Interim Associate Provost-Academic Quality Assurance, Academic Affairs, presented regarding the definition of Service Learning at Oakland University, as we seek to have a Carnegie Community Engagement classification. Currently, Service Learning is a course-based, credit bearing educational experience in which students: (1) participate in an organized service activity that meets a community need and (2) reflect upon their service activity as a means of gaining a deeper understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, an enhanced sense of civic responsibility and/or greater interest in and understanding of community life. The proposed revision would allow Service-Learning to be a course-based, credit bearing educational experience in which students participate in a semester-long service partnership that; (a) meets a community-defined need or aspiration; (b) requires student reflection on their service experience, to foster a deeper self-awareness of how their respective discipline impacts issues of social equality; and, (c) supports ongoing,

reciprocal campus-community relationships demonstrating OU's commitment to stewardship of place. The Council was supportive of this proposed revision and offered insight into current Service Learning opportunities in the various Schools. However, several of the current Service Learning opportunities shared with Dr. Landis-Piwowar did not comply with the proposed definition of a "semester-long" service partnership. Council asked that some modifications be made to the wording of the proposal. Dr. Kristin Landis-Piwowar will return to the Service Learning Committee with Council suggestions and return to the Graduate Council on March 16, 2022.

**C. School of Medicine Grading Policy Modification**

Claire Rammel reviewed the proposed modification. The proposed modification requests to rename Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine grades "Pass" (PA) and "Pass with Remediation" (PR) to "Pass 1" (P1) and "Pass 2" (P2), respectively, for use in the Oakland University grading scale beginning with the Fall 2022 semester. This proposed change would not create any new grades; rather, it would be a matter of renaming the labels of the two existing grades. After a lengthy discussion, the Council had questions regarding the rationale for this proposed modification, as well as the interpretability of Pass 1 and Pass 2 on a transcript. Council will invite Janail Silver, Director, SOM Records & Registrar, School of Medicine, David Thomas, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Preclinical Education, School of Medicine and Virginia Uhley, Ph.D., Associate Professor Biomedical Sciences, School of Medicine to attend the next Council meeting to address Council questions.

**D. Reading and Language Arts Post-Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Certificate**

Claire Rammel reviewed the proposed Post Master Graduate Certificate. This is a proposed twenty-eight credit certificate that would lead to the Reading Specialist endorsement in the State of Michigan. The Reading Specialist endorsement will be offered as a certificate. While the course content of the proposal is clearly presented, the title of the certificate does not align with approved nomenclature for Graduate Certificate programs. Council requested that Ms. Rammel reach out to the Department requesting a name change.

**E. Post-Master's Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management**

Claire Rammel reviewed the proposed certificate. Ms. Rammel informed the Council that the Department is attempting to convert many Post-Master's certificates to Graduate Certificates in an attempt to attract more students to their program. This proposal has reduced the current 15-credit PM Graduate certificate to a 12-credit Graduate certificate program, thus eliminating one course requirement. Council asked if they could see the course changes side-by-side. Ms. Rammel will create a display and present at the next Council meeting.

**F. Ph.D. in Nursing: BSN to PhD Track Modification**

Claire Rammel reviewed the modification. Initially, the School of Nursing anticipated the BSN prepared students admitted to the PhD in Nursing degree would require more course preparation in the area of research than the other PhD pathway students, therefore the BSN pathway students were required to complete NRS 7398 Research Practicum (2cr) and NRS 7399 Research Practicum (3cr). The School of Nursing soon discovered the BSN pathway students have the research knowledge required for satisfying the dissertation requirement, but no teaching experience for faculty teaching positions. Therefore, a curriculum modification has been proposed to the BSN to PhD pathway. The proposal is ADD NRS 6712 Curriculum Instruction in Nursing Education (3cr) and NRS 6722 Evaluation in Nursing Education (3cr) AND reduce NRS 9999 Dissertation from 24crs to 18crs. The total credits will remain at 80 credits.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:32 p.m.