

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

Staff: Celia Knobelsdorf (Secretary)

The meeting sheld remotely

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Second Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition & Graduate Student Showcase

The event was held on February 4, 2022. This was our second year of hosting this dual event. In 2021, the event was virtual, so this was the first time in person. The 3MT is open to students conducting original research as part of their degree program; the Showcase is open to all graduate students. Combined, the two events give graduate students a valuable opportunity to practice communicating with a lay audience. The event was a success, however we will be making modifications for a smoother event.

B. Graduate Student Research Conference

The event is in person on Friday, March 11, 2022. It is open to only the OU community. There are 31 poster presentations and 20 oral presentations.

C. Alumni Game Day

The Graduate School is planning a graduate student game day. It will be in person in the Oakland Center Bear Den and E-Sports area, and open to all graduate students. Games will include board games, pool and computer games. The date has yet to be determined. We believe it will be a good opportunity for students to reduce stress and interact with students from other programs.

D. OU Advance (working title)

This initiative is a strategic planning process to allow Oakland to meet the needs of adult learners. Working groups are being established. Each working group will be co-chaired by a faculty member and an administrator or staff member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes for the January 19, 2022 Graduate Council

Seong Cho moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022 Graduate Council Meeting. Meghan Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Health Equity Graduate Certificate

The initial proposal for the Graduate Certificate in Health Equity was 16 credits. The department has since decided to reduce the Graduate Certificate to 12 credits. The 12 credit Graduate Certificate provides students with the opportunity to earn the Graduate Certificate prior to entering the MPH degree, and reduce degree requirements by 12 credits OR earn the Graduate Certificate within the MPH degree program.

Claire Rammel presented the requested changes made by the Department. The Council discussed the changes.

Kris Thompson made the motion to approve the Health Equity Graduate Certificate. Lisa Hawley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

B. New Health and Population Research Graduate Certificate

Claire Rammel presented the requested changes made by the Department. The Council reviewed the changes.

Kris Thompson made the motion to approve the Health and Population Research Graduate Certificate. Lisa Hawley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

A. Epidemiological Research Graduate Certificate

Claire Rammel reviewed the proposed certificate. This certificate is similar to that of the Health Equity and Health Population Research graduate certificates. Claire worked with the Department to format this certificate. The Council thoroughly reviewed the certificate.

Kris Thompson made the motion to waive a second reading. Seong Cho seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kris Thompson made the motion to approve the Epidemiological Research Graduate Certificate. Joanne Lipson-Freed seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Combined Bachelor and Master Degree Program in Mathematics

Claire Rammel reviewed the proposed program. The program was approved by UCUI. The Committee discussed the program at length.

Kris Thompson made the motion to waive a second reading. Meghan Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Joanne Lipson-Freed made the motion to approve the Combined Bachelor and Master Degree Program in Mathematics. Kris Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. In Person Dissertation Defense

According to policy, Ph.D. dissertation defenses are to be in person during regular working hours of Oakland University Faculty. However, during the pandemic this practice was suspended. During the current semester, OU continues to do what is comfortable for both the student and faculty. Since some Ph.D. programs are online programs it is being proposed to revise the In Person Dissertation Defense Policy to allow for the continued practice of online defense. This would be at the discretion of the student's advisor or Committee. Brandy will draft a revision and submit the policy changes to the Graduate Committee.

D. Transfer Policy – Ph.D. Student Qualifying Exam and Proposal

The policy recently passed allows for a greater percentage of credits of the program to transfer in from other graduate programs. However, we did not discuss if we would accept the qualifying exam results from other institutions or if the student's dissertation proposal approval from the other institution would be accepted or considered milestones at Oakland University. Committee would be in favor of potentially allowing the qualifying exam to transfer, perhaps with the caveat that this is only possible for students coming with a new faculty member, but that the dissertation proposal would need to be at OU with the committee as constituted at Oakland. Suggestion is to amend the piece of the policy that is a specific exception for the students coming in with faculty to grant an exception to meeting the qualifying exam milestone at Oakland for just those students. Brandy will work to modify the transfer policy,

GOOD AND WELFARE

A. Governance Flow Chart

Dr. Meghan Harris referred to the Governance Flow Chart and what items need to be sent to the Graduate Council. Brandy informed the Council that she is working with Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Claire Rammel and Irene Shabazz, in Undergraduate to align the processes to create more clarity of definitions.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m.