

Present:

Brandy Randall (*Chair*), Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Henry Aigbedo, Anne Hranchook (Co-Chair), John Krauss, Helen Levenson, Joanne Lipson-Freed, Victoria Lucia, Daniel Llamocca Obregon, Meir Shillor, Thandi Sulé, Paul Weinberg, Neil Baumgartner, Nicole Boelk, Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Tricia Westergaard

Absent: Darrin Hanna

Staff: Linda Hutcheson (*Secretary*)

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- New regular guests of the Graduate Council
 - Graduate School Dean Brandy Randall welcomed Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Kristin Landis-Piwowar, and Registrar Tricia Westergaard.
- Fall 2025 enrollment
 - Last week's enrollment report showed total Head Count and Credit Hours up. That is due to new students, as returning students are slightly down thanks to the high number of students that graduated in Winter 2025 and that are graduating in Summer 2025. However, we have a higher percentage of returning students who have registered compared to this point last year.
- Graduate School Faculty Fellow
 - Thandi Sulé has consented to continue on with this position for the 2025 – 2026 academic year.
- Graduate School staffing
 - Graduate Assistant
 - Doctoral student Xavier Iriarte was recently chosen to serve in this Provost funded position focusing on graduate student success.
 - Grad Team changes
 - Tina Tucker will now be support for the School of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences on Grad Team 3.
 - Lateacha Allums-Carr will now be supporting the School of Health Sciences, the School of Nursing, and the OUWB Medical School, on Grad Team 1.
 - Assistant Dean for Operations and Evaluation
 - Interviews are underway. The Assistant Dean will provide data and work towards operational excellence and efficiencies, including the further implementation and use of Slate, as well as expand our surveys for prospective, current, and graduating students.
- Transition from Curriculog to Coursedog
 - Coursedog is an integrated software solution and should be live on all fronts in June 2026. Tricia Westergaard will provide updates to Council members as the implementation team continues their work.

Victoria Lucia nominated Anne Hranchook as Graduate Council Co-Chair for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Paul Weinberg seconded. The nomination was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Hranchook introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the April 21, 2025, meeting. Paul Weinberg seconded.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Program Review: process moving forward

Kristin Landis-Piowar explained the meaning and purpose of Program Review and noted areas in the ERN with information on process and scheduling. She emphasized that for their part of the Program Review process, the Graduate Council is only to look at graduate curriculum and that their reviews should not be punitive.

It is hoped that in the future, programs will undergo the Program Review process more frequently than every 10 years and in coordination with individual program requirements for their accreditors.

2. Program Review: subcommittee development

Anne Hranchook, John Krauss, and Joanne Freed volunteered for this new subcommittee and will develop a rubric based off of current documents.

3. Reducing minimum number of PhD program credits, graduate policy revision: first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Presenter: Brandy Randall

Brandy reported that the Provost has asked that the Graduate Council look at reducing the university required minimum of post baccalaureate PhD program credits down to 60 to make OU more competitive for admissions and potentially allowing students to graduate sooner.

Those present will discuss this with their academic units.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Dissertation requirements, graduate school policy revision, to add specifications regarding article format theses and dissertations

Paul Weinberg, Thandi Sulé, and Victoria Lucia volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to develop recommendations. Their discussions will include minimum expectations, authorship, references, and maybe artificial intelligence (AI).

2. OU Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award, modification to nomination process: to allow former graduate students to make nominations

Joanne Lipson-Freed moved to change the criteria for the nomination process to allow nominations from alumni. Paul Weinberg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Dual Degree (external), five-year school without bachelor's

Last year, two revisions were made to the dual degree policy. A request has been made for possible further revision regarding five-year long programs that get a masters without a bachelors. Brandy Randall will draft a new revision to the dual degree policy and bring it to the Council for review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.