

Oakland University  
**Graduate Council Minutes**

Monday, October 20, 2025

1:30 – 3:30pm

In-person and Online

**Present:**

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

**Absent:** Anne Hranchook (Co-Chair), Tricia Westergaard, Linda Hutcheson (Secretary)

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

- Graduate School Dean Brandy Randall introduced GS Assistant Dean for Operations and Evaluation Mark Tomaszewski.
- Enrollment for Winter 2026 is up for returning students, though down twelve new students and down four students overall. It was noted that it is still pretty early for Winter enrollment.
- The Graduate School continues to have some staff out on leave and Graduate Council members were asked to let the GS know if they notice that impacting their programs and to also be sure graduate program coordinators continue to use the Grad Team email addresses so multiple staff members can access them and so the conversations will be logged into Slate.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Graduate Council members pointed out a typo that will be corrected. Paul Weinberg introduced a motion to approve the corrected minutes for the October 6, 2025 meeting. John Krauss seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Nicole Boelk, OB3 Changes presentation
  - Director of Financial Aid Nicole Boelk shared that the One Big Beautiful Bill, or OB3, will eliminate new graduate students' ability to borrow from the Grad PLUS Loan program, and will place a \$100,000 aggregate limit on graduate student borrowing of unsubsidized loans.
    - These changes are likely to impact programs with heavy credit load requirements for students each semester.
    - This bill will have further negotiated rulemaking in early November and then in early 2026.
    - The regulation is scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2026.
    - Full details of some items are not yet known, including some key definitions.
    - To assist current students to possibly be able to have grandfathered Grad PLUS eligibility for three years,

departments and the GS should work with them soon to make sure that they are in the appropriate degree program and concentration.

- Loan eligibility will be reduced for students that are not attending full-time.
- Future institutional accountability compliance will mean that we will lose Title IV funding for a degree program for which it is determined that master's degree graduates are not earning at the same level of that of a baccalaureate student, or that doctoral level graduates are not earning at the master's degree level.
- Eligibility for workforce Pell has been expanded. This will allow short-term training programs between 8 and 15 weeks to receive not a normal Pell grant but a workforce Pell.
- There will be two main loan repayment tools, a standard repayment, and the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP).
- The forbearance option for economic hardship or unemployment will be gone.
- The Financial Aid office has introduced a product for students which allows them to compare private loans in an easy way.

#### **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

1. Leadership, EdS, graduate program modification and name change to Educational Leadership, EdS: third reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Darrin Hanna

Presenter(s): Eileen Johnson

**Darrin Hanna introduced a motion to approve. Paul Weinberg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Supply Chain Analytics, GC, new graduate certificate: first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Victoria Lucia, Meir Shillor

Presenter(s): Vijayan Sugumaran

- Brandy Randall will email D.r Sugumaran regarding member's questions and concerns about artificial intelligence (AI), the number of students expected to enroll, and one required course being partially online though the program is marked as fully online.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. K-12 Dance Education, GC, new graduate certificate: discussion among GC members only Reviewers: Henry Aigbedo, Daniel Llamocca

Presenter(s): Beth Dawson, Jeffrey Heisler, Elizabeth Kattner

- Members and guests discussed possibly amending a policy to allow for departments that do not have a graduate degree to teach more graduate level courses (worth noting is that neither federal nor institutional financial aid can be used to pay for a class that does not count toward a degree or certificate program), with the aim of helping meet the current market and to help positively differentiate Oakland's offerings from that of other universities. Discussion included the stipulation that any new graduate course must be reviewed by the Graduate Council if the course is not part of a graduate certificate or graduate degree program.
  - The members also discussed amending the policy that currently does not allow graduate certificates unless at least 50% of the courses are offered as part of degree programs.
  - If the changes are made, the Dance program would be allowed to have the proposed new graduate certificate within Dance, rather than within Music.
  - Nicole Boelk will reach out to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NAFSAA) to ask about what will happen if we answer 'no' to the EDUCAUSE Center for Analysis and Research (ECAR) question about whether a class is towards a degree program.
2. Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award, to discuss potential revision to selection process
    - This item will be rescheduled after receipt of further materials from Student Affairs.
  3. Reducing minimum number of PhD program credits
    - Brandy Randall will bring policy revisions reflecting Council discussions to the next GC meeting.
  4. Dissertation Format Requirements Subcommittee: report
    - Not discussed due to lack of time. Will be assigned to a future Council agenda.
  5. Program Review Subcommittee: report
    - Not discussed due to lack of time. Will be assigned to a future Council agenda.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

