

Present: Brandy Randall, (*Chair*), Joanne Lipson-Freed (*Co-Chair*). Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Henry Aigbedo, Darrin Hanna, Anne Hranchook, John Krauss, Victoria Lucia, Daniel Llamocca Obregon, Thandi Sulé, Paul Weinberg, Neil Baumgartner

Absent: Helen Levenson, Meir Shillor, Nicole Boelk

Staff: Linda Hutcheson (*Secretary*)

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- In 2025, Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education will use how much money an institution spends on research, and how many doctorates it awards in a year when classifying universities. R1 universities award at least 70 research doctorates per year.
 - With EDD students included, Oakland University is expected to be at approximately 62 this year.
 - Graduate School Dean Brandy Randall is making recommendations regarding what it would take to get OU awarding above 70 consistently every year.
 - Graduate Council members were asked to consider what would help and forward her their recommendations.
 - At this meeting, suggestions included keeping OU competitive with other universities by offering Graduate Assistants a higher stipend tier and health insurance.
- Provost candidate Open Forums are underway. Council members were asked to encourage their colleagues to attend and complete the feedback survey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Krauss introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the October 21, 2024, meeting, pending adding 'based on the Program Review Criteria handbook' after "...in evaluating program reviews". Victoria Lucia seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. **History, MA Graduate Program Modification:** third reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.
Reviewers: Darrin Hanna, Claire Rammel
Presenter(s): Sarah Chapman Williams
 - Presenter agreed to make Council requested edits to the proposal involving capstone, thesis and exit examination.

Joanne Lipson-Freed moved to approve the Master of Arts in History Graduate Program Modification proposal pending submission of a revision with requested updates and of relevant course action forms. John Krauss seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Information Security Management, GC, Rename; Graduate Program Modification:

second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Daniel Llamocca, Victoria Lucia, Brandy Randall

Presenter(s): Vijayan Sugumaran

- A previous version of this proposal was approved by the Graduate Council but not moved forward in governance because it was designated a High Flex program and High Flex is not officially defined in university policy. After discussion with Dr. Sugumaran, it was learned that the program did not intend to permanently become a High Flex program, so they submitted a revision. In this version of the proposal, High Flex is not included. There is not a request in this version for a change of delivery mode.

Joanne Lipson-Freed moved to approve the Graduate Certificate in Information Security Management Graduate Program Modification proposal. John Krauss seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Graduate Admissions, Graduate School Policy Revision: first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Presenter(s): Brandy Randall

- The Council supported opening up Graduate School admission requirements to allow admission be offered to students that have the educational background to be successful although their educational background does not match current admissions requirements.
- They also supported decreasing the Graduate School admissions required number of recommendations from two to one to help keep Oakland competitive with other schools that have gone down to one or none, and to clearly state that the recommender can't be a friend or family member. Members also talked about removing recommendations for graduate certificates.
- Dean Randall will revise the policy further to reflect the details above and bring this policy revision for a second reading.

2. Advanced Social Work Practice in Behavioral Health, GC, New Graduate Certificate: first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Meir Shillor, Thandi Sulé

Presenter(s): Maria Beam

Member discussion on this and the School Social Work certificate led to these questions being emailed to Maria Beam for review and response.

- Why do students need to enroll in a certificate program when the courses are already part of the program?
- Can students enroll in the certificate if they are not going to get a Masters of Social Work?

3. School Social Work, GC, New Graduate Certificate: first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Meir Shillor, Thandi Sulé

Presenter(s): Maria Beam

Member discussion on this and the Advanced Social Work Practice in Behavioral Health certificate led to these questions being emailed to Maria Beam for review and response.

- Why do students need to enroll in a certificate program when the courses are already part of the program?
- Can students enroll in the certificate if they are not going to get a Masters of Social Work?

4. Definition of Fully and Partially High Flex Programs, New Graduate School Policy: first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Presenter(s): Brandy Randall, Shaun Moore, Diane Underwood

- All courses required to complete a High Flex degree need to be High Flex, but that does not prevent High Flex programs from offering elective courses that are not High Flex.
- Council members acknowledged how challenging managing High Flex courses are to faculty and discussed possibly requiring new proposals ensure funding for learning assistants that would help faculty manage the coordination of simultaneously teaching in-person and online.
- This will be discussed further at a future meeting. Dean Randall will email Shaun Moore requesting a response to members asking what the value and implications of the Partially High Flex program would be, and noting that members felt that it would be confusing for students if they knew that part of the program was High Flex, but they wouldn't know whether the rest would be online, in-person, or some combination of the two.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.