

Present:

Brandy Randall, (*Chair*), Joanne Lipson-Freed (*Co-Chair*), Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Helen Levenson, Darrin Hanna, Anne Hranchook, John Krauss, Victoria Lucia, Daniel Llamocca Obregon, Thandi Sulé, Meir Shillor, Paul Weinberg

Absent: Nicole Boelk (guest), Seong Yeon Cho

Staff: Linda Hutcheson (*Secretary*)

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- The Graduate School is happy to have two new staff members starting this week, Jessica Williams and Molly Swiatowy.
- Dean Brandy Randall has given OU's Human Resources department the name of the interviewers' preferred candidate for the Unit Marketing and Enrollment Coordinator position that will report to Brandy and supports both PACE and the Graduate School. HR will make the offer. This staff member will be making newsletters announcing which Graduate School items and proposals are coming out of Senate.
- Data analysis is crucial and we're steadily working on the groundwork needed before posting for Steve Meyer's replacement.
- The Graduate/Professional Student Advisory Group will have its first meeting on February 20, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Hranchook introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the January 22, 2024, meeting. Meir Shillor seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. **BS. Mechanical Engineering / M.S. Mechanical Engineering_Combined, New Combined Degree Program**
Reviewers: Claire Rammel, Brandy Randall

The Graduate Council confirmed their approval of the version recently approved by the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction that had been previously finalized and approved by the Graduate Council but out of the proper order with UCUI.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- 1. Master of Organizational Leadership, Program Modification: second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.**

Reviewers: John Krauss, Daniel Llamocca Obregon

Presenter(s): Tom Giberson

Members agreed that the presenter's written response adequately addressed concerns about 4-credit, 8 week courses. The Council tabled further discussion on the proposal and agreed to email Tom Giberson requesting his response about how the degree program will be adapted/adjusted for HyFlex delivery, and how it will ensure that students attending online receive the same quality experience as students attending f2f.

- 2. Master of Business Administration and Online Master of Business Administration, Program Modification: second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this Meeting.**

Reviewers: Darrin Hanna, Paul Weinberg

Presenter(s): Rajeev Singhal, Paul Trumbull

It was noted that version 2 of the proposal gave adequate responses to the issues raised in Darrin Hanna's review. The Council tabled further discussion on the proposal and agreed to email Rajeev Singhal and Paul Trumbull requesting that the Functional Areas be clearly and explicitly defined, so that a student can readily identify which Functional Area a given Core course belongs to, and which courses are acceptable substitutes. Additionally stating, that if this isn't already clearly defined in the catalog, it needs to be spelled out in the proposal and included in the catalog language moving forward. A question about Financial Aid eligibility for students pursuing a concentration was forwarded to Nicole Boelk, Director of Financial Aid, for clarification.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Academic Badging Policy Revision**

Destiny Solutions, the software module we purchased to issue digital badges, links to Credly. Credly defines badge levels differently than was approved through governance in the original Academic Badging Policy. Associate Provost Kristin Landis-Powar and Graduate School Dean Brandy Randall determined that it would be most effective to have our definition of levels for academic badging conform to the nomenclature used by Credly.

It was additionally noted that Credly requires specific concrete skills and explanations of how those skills will be assessed to be entered into the module when creating badges. Additionally, OU has several licenses to a software called Lightcast. We can run a competitor analysis for each program in Lightcast. This will help us identify in demand skills for different programs. Linda Hutcheson will provide a copy of a Lightcast report with competitor analysis with the February 19, 2024, meeting materials.

Joanne Lipson-Freed introduced a motion to waive the second reading. John Krauss seconded. The motion to waive the second reading was unanimously approved.

Anne Hranchook introduced a motion to approve the revision. Meir Shillor seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2. Subcommittee to do a study that would result in recommendations for how different proposed New Certificate and New Degree programs need to be from existing certificates and degree programs to justify their addition.**

Call for volunteers for this Subcommittee was deferred to the March 4, 2024, meeting agenda.

- 3. Discussion of 50% Stand Alone grad rule**

Members tentatively agreed that the current rule allowing a maximum of 50% of courses be slash courses is still acceptable. It was noted that the new stacking certificates would not necessarily need to meet that rule. Members discussed possibly revising this policy for clarity and language and to add doing a study of peer institutions policies on the maximum number of slash courses allowed to apply towards a graduate degree program to the March 4, 2024, agenda's 'Subcommittee to do a study that would result in recommendations for how different proposed New Certificate and New Degree programs need to be from existing certificates and degree programs to justify their addition.' item.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- Joanne noted to O'Dowd Committee members that applications won't all be received in until the middle of February.
- The 3-Minute Thesis and Graduate Student Showcase events are on February 16, 2024, on the first and second floors of the Oakland Center. The Championship Round of the 3MT will be live streamed. In addition to the judges' choices, there will be a People's Choice awarded for both the Showcase and the 3MT, so there'll be an opportunity for you to vote on that.
- Anne Hranchook requested further discussion on professional doctoral program minimum credits and it was decided that 'Discussion of minimum number of Post-Master's Doctoral Program credits' will be on the February 19, 2024, meeting's agenda.
- Thandi Sulé reported on their subcommittee's progress in developing a proposal to establish an outstanding mentor award for faculty who aren't in tenure-eligible lines. They started by looking at the application, and are now collecting materials to put the proposal together, and should have something to present shortly. Linda Hutcheson will pull details about how many people were nominated but not eligible for this program and pass them along to Thandi Sulé and Anne Hranchook for review.
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- Thandi Sulé reported that last week the Mentoring 4 Life program started their second year of mentoring.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.

