

# Oakland University

## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 – Meeting #10

Location: 100 KL

Meeting Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Approved: 02/19/2014

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**Present:** Tamara Hew-Butler, Dae-Kyoo Kim, Frank Lepkowski (*Ex Officio*), Karl Majeske, Robert Noiva, Harvey Qu, Darlene Schott-Baer (Chair), Joe Shively,

**Absent:** Dan Aloï (excused), Linda Pavonetti (excused), Claire Rammel (excused), Cheryl Riley-Doucet (excused), Carol Swift (excused)

**Staff:** Julie Delaney, Tina Tucker (Secretary)

The meeting was convened by Darlene Schott-Baer, Chair, at 2:05 PM.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Dae-Kyoo Kim made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2013, Graduate Council Meeting as written. Karl Majeske seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

### II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Schott-Baer introduced Harvey Qu of Mathematics and Statistics and Joe Shively of Music as new members to the Council for the Winter Semester 2014. They will be serving in place of Meir Shillor and Brad Roth while they are both on sabbatical this semester.

Ms. Schott-Baer also introduced Diana Underwood, Coordinator for Activities and Programs, E-learning and Instructional Support. Ms. Underwood will be attending the Graduate Council Meetings as a guest, allowing her to stay updated on business involving online programs, enabling her to be prepared to assist faculty.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

**Zero Credit Courses.** Postponed until February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Steve Shablin from the Registrar's Office, Cindy Hermsen from Financial Aid, and Jacqueline Wiggins from Theatre, Music, and Dance will attend the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to answer questions about the zero credit courses that the Council members may have. Music, Theatre, and Dance is currently the only department that has zero credit courses at the graduate level.

**Master of Arts in Teaching in Digital Literacies and Learning New Program Proposal.**

Reviewers: Frank Lepkowski and Cheryl Riley-Doucet.—***Postponed until further notice from the department.***

**Second Reading:** Debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Program Review.** One of the program reviews, assigned in Fall 2012, has now been received. Several program reviews were assigned in the Fall Semester of 2012 with a deadline of May 2014 for completion. A subgroup from the Graduate Council will be charged with the review of the program reviews and asked to make recommendations based on their review. Ms. Schott-Baer is preparing to send notices for the next group of program reviews, majority of which are in the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Program Modification Proposals.** Mr. Kim and Ms. Riley-Doucet reviewed four program modification proposals submitted by the Mathematics Department; PhD in Applied Mathematical Sciences, MA in Mathematics, MS in Industrial Applied Mathematics, and MS in Applied Statistics. Mr. Kim presented the proposals to the Council.

The rationale for the modifications proposed for the four programs is to be in line with other new graduate programs at Oakland University and comparative graduate programs at other institutions.

- **Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematical Sciences.** To be effective Fall 2014.  
Reviewers: Cheryl Riley-Doucet and Dae-Kyoo Kim  
**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.  
**Motion:** ***Approve the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematical Sciences program modification proposal.***

Proposed modification includes the reduction of total credits from 90 to 80. Reduction is made by reducing dissertation credits from 27 to 20 and removing 3 credits of Problem Solving Seminar as a degree requirement.

The Council had some discussion and question of the reduction of dissertation credits reducing the quality of the degree. It was explained that the reduction is in credits only, not dissertation requirements or quality. The Council also discussed the reduction in credits, with no reduction of quality or resources, would result in a reduction of revenue. It was rationalized that making the program more competitive with similar programs at other institutions would attract more students.

Mr. Noiva asked what precipitated the modification proposals reducing the PhD credit requirements. Ms. Schott-Baer explained that, approximately two years earlier, Graduate Council approved a document that set the minimum requirement for a doctoral program at Oakland University to a minimum requirement of 80 credits total.

With no further questions or revisions to be made, ***Robert Noiva made the motion to waive the second reading for the four math modification proposals. Tamara Hew-Butler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Motion passed unanimously to approve the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematical Sciences program modification proposal as written.***

- **Master of Arts in Mathematics.** To be effective Fall 2014. Reviewers: Cheryl Riley-Doucet and Dae-Kyoo Kim  
**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.  
**Motion: *Approve the Master of Arts in Mathematics program modification proposal.***

Proposed modification includes the reduction of total credits from 36 to 32. Reduction is made by reducing the core requirements by 4 credits.

***Motion passed unanimously to approve the Master of Arts in Mathematics program modification proposal as written.***

- **Master of Science in Industrial Applied Mathematics.** To be effective Fall 2014. Reviewers: Cheryl Riley-Doucet and Dae-Kyoo Kim  
**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.  
**Motion: *Approve the Master of Science in Industrial Applied Mathematics program modification proposal.***

Proposed modification includes the reduction of total credits from 36 to 32. Reduction is made by reducing the electives requirement by 4 credits.

***Motion passed unanimously to approve the Master of Science in Industrial Applied Mathematics program modification proposal as written.***

- **Master of Science in Applied Statistics.** To be effective Fall 2014. Reviewers: Cheryl Riley-Doucet and Dae-Kyoo Kim  
**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.  
**Motion: *Approve the Master of Science in Applied Statistics program modification proposal.***

***Motion passed unanimously to approve the Master of Science in Applied Statistics program modification proposal as written.***

Proposed modification includes the reduction of total credits from 36 to 32. Reduction is made by reducing the electives requirement by 4 credits.

- **PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Medical Physics.** To be effective Fall 2014. Reviewers: Carol Swift and Joe Shively  
**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.  
**Motion: *Approve the PhD Biomedical Sciences: Medical Physics program modification proposal.***

The PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Medical Physics was reviewed by Carol Swift and Joe Shively. Mr. Shively presented the proposal to Council.

The proposed modification includes the reduction of total credits required for the degree from 90 to 80. Reduction is made by reducing the dissertation research requirement from 30 to 20 credits.

The rationale for the proposed modification is to make the program more consistent with other similar programs and more attractive for prospective students. Because most students are restricted to taking eight credits per semester, due to financial issues or because of the terms of their graduate assistantship, reducing the number of credits from 90 to 80 will allow graduation in five years rather than six years.

With no further questions or revisions to be made, ***Tamara Hew-Butler made the motion to waive the second reading for the PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Medical Physics program modification proposal. Joe Shively seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Motion passed unanimously to approve the PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Medical Physics program modification proposal as written.***

- **PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Health and Environmental Chemistry.** To be effective Fall 2014. Reviewers: Carol Swift and Karl Majeske  
**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.  
**Motion: *Approve the PhD Biomedical Sciences: Health and Environmental Chemistry program modification proposal.***

The PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Health and Environmental Chemistry was reviewed by Carol Swift and Karl Majeske. Mr. Majeske presented the proposal to Council.

The proposed modification includes the reduction of total credits required for the degree from 90 to 80. Reduction is made by reducing the dissertation research requirement from 30 to 20 credits.

The rationale for the proposed modification is to bring the program in line with the university's PhD 80 credit minimum, to make the program more competitive with neighboring institutions, and to allow for more efficient use of the limited credits available to support biomedical doctoral students.

With no further questions or revisions to be made, ***Robert Noiva made the motion to waive the second reading for the PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Health and Environmental Chemistry program modification proposal. Harvey Qu seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Motion passed unanimously to approve the PhD in Biomedical Sciences: Health and Environmental Chemistry program modification proposal as written.***

**Critique of the new Modification Proposal Form:**

- Mr. Noiva stated that he felt that the old forms seemed easier to read. He noted that on the mathematical proposals, not all of the questions were complete.

- On the math modification proposals, it seemed the changes were redundant in being repeated three times. Ms. Schott-Baer pointed out that by looking at the catalog copy, there are three tracks, which explains why it appears that one change is repeated three times. It was suggested that there should be some sort of a break or division in #1 when dealing with multiple tracks.
- Mr. Kim noted that he likes the way the new form shows the rationale following each change. He also noted that he did not see the need for two tables that appear to explain the same thing.
- Ms. Schott-Baer stated that she liked having the catalog piece, making it easier to follow through with catalog changes and helped to see the changes operationalized in the catalog.

**V. GOOD AND WELFARE**

No report

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned approximately 2:58 PM.