

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 12, 2003

100 KRESGE LIBRARY

APPROVED: 12 March 03

Present: Beth Black, Ranald Hansen, Randy Gu, Lisa Hawley, Mildred Merz, Kathleen Moore, Dale Nesbary, Sherri Oden, Mohinder Parkash, Claire Rammel, Darlene Schott-Baer, Ishwar Sethi

Call to Order

This meeting was convened at 2:10 p.m. by Ranald Hansen, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Study.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The MOTION to approve the minutes of January 29, 2003 was made, Seconded and Passed unanimously with one change. Darlene Schott-Baer asked to waive the second reading of the music education proposal (page 3). The Graduate Council denied the request.

II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Portability Act

Randy Hansen explained the Portability Act is linked to legislation that has to do with health insurance not being cancelled when an employee moves from one job to another. It has broader legal implications in conducting research aimed at people with a particular disease and for biomedical researchers who work in that domain. Mr. Hansen indicated that while we want to be in synch with what the hospitals are doing, it is unclear as to what the implications are for our IRB. Sherri Oden remarked that education researchers have similar issues in nursing when they look into school records data.

B. Cooley Law School (CLS)

Randy Hansen announced that tomorrow at the Senate, the Provost would be offering a motion that the Senate endorses Oakland University entering a relationship with Cooley Law School. Mr. Hansen was uncertain the specific content of the motion. Currently, Cooley Law School is offering its next semester sequence to their Fall 02 Cohort. There is not much new to report in terms of the progress being made in approving Oakland as a satellite, but Randy Hansen will report back to the Graduate Council as he learns more information.

III. OLD BUSINESS

C. Motion to Reconsider Graduate Course Numbering System

Claire Rammel indicated the “Graduate Course Numbering System” policy should identify courses 700-level and above as doctoral courses. This will not preclude Master degree students from enrolling in these courses. Cross-listing would be restricted to courses numbered 500-level or above.

A MOTION was made and SECONDED to approve the policy.

D. PhD in Education – Music Education Cognate Proposal

Darlene Schott-Baer felt this proposal was inconsistent with the approved doctoral framework in Education. The cognate, as described in the framework, implies that it has to be completed within the School of Education. Clearly, this cognate is outside the School of Education. Ms. Schott-Baer believes the description in the framework should be modified to accurately capture what has been proposed—fulfilling cognate requirements outside Education. Sherri Oden suggested a much broader interpretation. She recommended adding a sentence to allow course enrollment outside of the School of Education. Further discussions ensued regarding admission requirements, comprehensive examinations and administration of the degree. Graduate Council agreed the critical component of this proposal is the term “cognate.” This is NOT a new degree program in Music, Theatre and Dance-- this is a degree program administered through the School of Education. The approved framework for the PhD in Education should be enforced.

Graduate Council requested the following changes be made in the proposal BEFORE they would consider voting on the motion:

- 1) The department core courses should remain CIL courses. Randy Hansen suggested minimally, they might be cross-listed with the CIL core courses.
- 2) The Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance could participate in admission interviews and make admit recommendations to SEHS. Admission requirements and administration of the degree program is the responsibility of SEHS.
- 3) The dissertation committee should have two MUS and two CIL faculty.
- 4) The section on comprehensive exams must be revised to reflect CIL requirements and procedures with a cognate examination in the area music.
- 5) Review the proposed budget. Council thought a budget associated with a cognate would be closer to neutral.

E. Nomenclature Discussion

Claire Rammel initiated discussion on the topic of graduate nomenclature. When reviewing new program proposals, Graduate Council has voiced a concern regarding the vast range of terminology to describe cognates, specializations, concentrations and tracks. Mohinder Parkash felt nomenclature should include all graduate programs, not just doctoral programs. It was understood that nomenclature would be difficult to standardize at university level due to the contrast between the undergraduate and graduate academic environment. It was suggested Graduate Council should review the nomenclature adopted at the undergraduate level. The terms “major” and “minor” are not terms normally associated with graduate programs. Claire Rammel pointed out that even within graduate programs, many terms are discipline specific. Randy Hansen suggested continuing the discussion at one of our next meetings.

F. Minimum Credits Required for Master Degrees at OU

Claire Rammel is still doing research on this topic. She indicated Tuition and Fees Committee is also looking at credit costs by discipline. When the data becomes available, she would like to share it with this group.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language

Claire Rammel circulated the proposal for a Graduate Certificate Program in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). The Graduate Council should be prepared for the first reading at the next meeting. She would like to get this proposal to the Provost by the end of March. It was suggested Peter Binkert, Chair of Linguistics, be present at the next Graduate Council meeting.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Academic Probation

Kathleen Moore asked for clarification on academic probation and asked if it is the responsibility of the department for the graduate program. Randy Hansen suggested that whatever academic standards are established by the department, they must be well published. When a department recommends dismissing a student, they must be certain that a consistent and clear policy in place, and that all events surrounding the dismissal is very carefully documented. According to Dale Nesbary, the MPA program has their academic policies published in the graduate catalog. Claire Rammel asked for copies of department handbooks, since often academic policies are defined in more detail.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Graduate Council adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2003 in 100 Kresge Library.