

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
March 1, 2017 MINUTES
Farzaneh Hall, Room 142**

All actions taken by the Graduate Council will have a twenty-one (21) day faculty protest period except for new courses, course changes, and petitions, which will be considered approved by the Graduate Faculty if no written protest is received in the Graduate College within seven (7) days.

Present: Randall Hewes, James Sluss, Nancy LaGreca, Jennifer Kisamore, Sally Beach, Shane Connelly, Natalie Daugherty, Peter Gade, Phil Gibson, Tohren Kibbey, Nina Livesey, Hollie Mackey, Rebecca Maldonado, Patrick McCann, David Moxley, Sanna Pederson, Mark Raymond, Lauren Ross, Susan Walden, Pradeep Yadav

Absent: Jackson Autrey, Martin Montminy, Mark Meo, Charles Warnken

Guests: Ron Bolen, Willard (Bill) Freeman (HSC), Amber Hasbrook, Anthony Natale, Sara Vaughan

Description of General Business

- The minutes from February 1, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Program Modifications and Proposals

1. Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis – program modification was unanimously approved.
2. Accelerated B.S./M.S. in Biomedical Engineering – accelerated degree proposal was unanimously approved.
3. Graduate Certificate in Fundamentals of Special Education – embedded certificate proposal was unanimously approved.
4. Graduate Certificate in Secondary Transition Education Specialist – program modification was unanimously approved.
5. M.Ed. in Special Education – concentration deletion was unanimously approved.
6. M.Ed. in Special Education (Electronic Delivery) – concentration deletion was unanimously approved.
7. M.Ed. in Special Education – program modification was unanimously approved.
8. Ph.D. in Special Education – program modification was unanimously approved.
9. Master of Business Administration (Standard) – program requirement change was approved.
10. Professional Master of Business Administration – program requirement change was approved.
11. Accelerated B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Standard/Master of Business Administration – program requirement change was approved.
12. Accelerated B.S. in Petroleum Engineering/Master of Business Administration – program requirement change was approved.

Discussion Items

- Peer institutions
 - Dean Hewes discussed work to identify an appropriate set of peer institutions for graduate education. Having a perspective of what peer institutions are doing can be useful in many areas, such as determining competitiveness of graduate stipends and identifying best practices for inclusivity and graduate student recruitment.

- Currently, we often use the Big XII for this kind of benchmarking. However, some of the Big XII schools are structurally quite different from OU with respect to how graduate education is funded and organized.
- To develop a new set, we started with the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education 2015 data set. We applied filters to restrict the list to Carnegie R1 public institutions with comprehensive research doctoral programs, an overall enrollment profile of majority undergraduate (10-49% graduate student), and four-year, full-time, large, primarily- or highly-residential undergraduate profiles. New England, far west, outlying areas, and rural schools were removed. Ranges were applied to remove institutions with >11,000 total degrees per year, research expenditures over \$500 million or below \$100 million, and with less than 700 or more than 2,000 faculty.
- The resulting set of peer institutions will be used for institution-level research, comparisons, and benchmarking. For national comparisons of individual graduate programs, we may need separate lists of peer or aspirational peer institutions.

Subcommittee Reports

Dr. Ben Holt submitted the following report of the Academic Program Review Committee meeting:

- The APR committee had a busy February. We first met with Dean Mary Margaret Holt from Fine Arts to discuss the self-study reports for multiple programs under her purview. Her viewpoints were insightful regarding both individual programs and the many collaborative interactions between these groups. We additionally met with external reviewers for the School of Musical Theatre (Dr. Linda Starkey, Wichita State University and Dr. Robert Hetherington, University of Memphis), the School of Visual Arts (Dr. Stacey Sloboda, Southern Illinois University and Dr. Michael Krueger, University of Kansas), and the College of Journalism and Mass Communication (Dr. Hub Brown, Syracuse University and Dr. Spiro Kiouisis, University of Florida). The aim of the exit interviews was to receive feedback from these external reviewers while their thoughts were still fresh, although each group will additionally provide us with a detailed report within the next few weeks. While we specifically requested reviewer input on opportunities for programmatic improvement, most notable in each exit interview was their positive impression of OU programs, especially regarding the impressive faculty devotion to programmatic quality in a financially difficult period.

Dr. David P. Moxley provided the following information about the Faculty Senate Meeting held on February 13, 2017:

- Visit the website of the Institute for the Study of Human Flourishing within the university (ou.edu/flourish) to learn more about support for the design of courses to incorporate ideas and concepts regarding human flourishing as an ethics movement in pedagogy. Note that the institute will accept proposals for course development or modification until April 1, 2017.
- There was a discussion on the call for nominations for university councils, committees, and boards. The university is still fielding these nominations, so interested faculty are welcome to self-nominate or nominate colleagues.
- The WGS Center for Social Justice is offering a workshop series entitled *Diversity Ally for Faculty*. Contact Megan Smith in the OU Women's and Gender Studies Center for Social Justice: mgs@ou.edu or 405-325-5787. Registration can be found at www.eventbrite.com/o/the-center-for-social-justice-12692880536.
- There was considerable discussion by Dean Suzette Grillo regarding the support of international students on campus. Concern for the well-being of international students is very high on campus, and the Graduate Council may want to discuss ways that members or the council as a whole can reach out to our international graduate students to welcome them, offer reassurance, and offer on-going support.

- To address faculty inclusion, there was discussion of the possibility of creating a Faculty Senate committee, the focus of which is faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion. What follows is the language taken verbatim from the proposal guiding the establishment of the committee:

Charge: This committee is responsible to the Faculty Senate for reviewing and recommending university policy and practice on issues related to faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In carrying out this responsibility, the committee shall:

- (1) Investigate, discover, and promote best practices for faculty recruiting and retention.
- (2) Gather and review information on the allocation of university resources (awards, research grants, prizes, etc.) and advancements (tenure, promotion, named professorships, etc.) relative to metrics of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- (3) Suggest to the Senate appropriate proposals, strategies, and forums for advancing the goals of the committee.
- (4) Work with the Office of University Community to set priorities, advance policy, and follow up on the progress of proposed initiatives.
- (5) Report at least yearly to the Senate and, upon approval, the President and the Provost.

Operating Procedures

The Committee shall formulate its own operating procedures, which shall include:

- (1) The election of a chair from among the faculty members of the committee;
- (2) provision for a sub-committee of the committee to which non-members of the committee may be appointed by the Faculty Senate, if the Senate deems such additions appropriate; and
- (3) provision for liaison with all appropriate councils and committees.

The committee will have seven members elected by the Faculty Senate who serve three-year staggered terms.

Dr. Sanna Pederson submitted the following report from the February 16, 2017 meeting of the OUHSC Graduate Council:

- The HSC Graduate Council meeting on February 16 consisted of reports from various committees, since there was no old or new business on the agenda. The Faculty Senate report announced a new University Community Bias Hotline. The Graduate Student Association reported on fundraisers and opportunities to volunteer at the food bank as a community service activity. The report from Employee Benefits emphasized that if there are any problems making the transition from Blue Cross to Cigna, it should be reported, because Cigna pledged identical service as Blue Cross for their first year. Finally, there was a report on the Graduate Student competition, "Flash Talks." The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Dr. James Sluss, Dean of the Tulsa Graduate College, offered the following:

- Jabar Shumate, Vice President for the University Community in Norman, visited to discuss a possible Office of University Community on the Tulsa campus.
- They held a successful Giving Day on February 28th.

Course Changes

The following course changes and proposals have been approved by the Graduate Council and will be forwarded to the Academic Programs Council for further approval after the seven (7) day protest period. Only brief information regarding approved changes follows; however, original course change proposals will be on file in the Graduate College through the seven-day protest period if you have questions or concerns about any of the following. Please contact the Graduate Council Secretary, Linda Kelly, at 325-3106, if you wish to review any of these materials.

AME 5263. Change in prerequisites.
AME 5273. Change in prerequisites. Change in description.
AME 5303. Change in prerequisites.
AME 5373. Change in prerequisites. Change in description.
AME 5513. Change in prerequisites. Change in description.
C S 5213. Change in prerequisites. Change in semester.
C S 5473. Change in prerequisites. Change in description.
CH E 5143. Course addition.
CH E 5163. Change in prerequisites. Removed slashlisting.
DSA 5011. Course addition.
DSA 5021. Course addition.
EDSP 6023. Change in title. Change in description.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 5, 2017.

DISTRIBUTION DATE: March 3, 2017

For an electronic copy of these minutes and more information about the Graduate Council, please visit our website at:
http://www.ou.edu/content/gradweb/faculty_resources/graduate_council.html