

**MINUTES**  
**The Graduate Council**  
October 17, 2022  
Zoom

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**Members Present:** Ron Bramhall (*ex officio*), Christopher Chavez, Krista Chronister (*ex officio*), Katherine Donaldson (*ex officio*), Aaron Gullickson, Bonnie Gutierrez (*ex officio*), Satomi Ladd (*ex officio*), Beth Harn, Jaewoo Kim, Gyoung-ah Lee, Rebecca Lewis, Barbara Muraca, Raghuveer Parthasarathy, Hatsue Sato, Keya Saxena, Leslie Straka, Frances White (*ex officio*), Annie Zemper

**Members Absent:** Erik Girvan, Martin Klebes

**Division of Graduate Studies Staff in Attendance:** Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

**Office of the Provost Staff in Attendance:** Betina Lynn

The meeting was called to order at 12:02PM and the September meeting minutes were approved.

**Committee Assignments**

All Graduate Council members received an email notifying them which committee they were appointed to for the academic year. The Division of Graduate Studies (DGS) is preparing an informational document that outlines the responsibilities of each committee, how many hours are expected, and what time of the year they convene. Most committees do not have a designated Chair but will be guided by a DGS staff member.

A Promising Scholar Award (PSA) Committee was newly added. In the past, PSA award applications were reviewed by faculty and DGS staff, however it had been a challenge to find faculty members with the capacity to participate. Having Graduate Council members share the bulk of this work will alleviate that challenge and promote shared governance.

**College of Education Reorganization**

The College of Education (COE) has moved forward with the closure of the Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership (EMPL) Department, and its programs were reassigned to, or are in the process of being reassigned to other COE departments. DEd and licensure programs are currently on pause but are slated to be up and running again by summer.

Associate Professor, Sylvia Thompson, joined the meeting to provide an overview of how the reorganization took place. She explained that early on, there was a strong desire for faculty to be involved and have their voices heard, but because there was no established process, steps were missed which resulted in discontent among the department. The Graduate Council agreed that the lack of established process for shared governance is a major concern since dissolving a department can affect tenure lines as well as student experience.

The Graduate Council agrees that a Task Force which includes faculty should have been convened to determine solutions and consult with Academic Council, and other bodies. Guidelines should be developed on what constitutes an appropriate reason to dissolve a department, and at what stage should faculty be involved. Departments should submit a strong rationale as to why they are dissolving and follow the guidelines.

Professor Frances White noted that Academic Council will be coming up with a process and will share it with Graduate Council for feedback.

### **Proposal for 12-credit Graduate Credential**

This is a revised proposal that incorporates feedback from the last Graduate Council meeting. The two options that are being proposed are:

- 1) Categorizing this credential as a "Graduate Certificate" and reducing the graduate certificate minimum required credits from 24 to 12.
- 2) Create a new 12-credit credential with a different name, such as "Professional Certificate" or "Micro Certificate" which would be distinguishable from the 24-credit graduate certificate.

Regarding Option 1, several Council members believe that reducing the graduate certificate's minimum credits devalues the certificate and may create confusion surrounding the rigor of the programs, especially if two programs have a similar name. Because these two credentials are different from each other, they should be named differently. On the other hand, a few Council members like the idea of letting programs decide on their minimum credit requirements.

Regarding Option 2, there is shared concern that calling it a "Professional Certificate" could be confusing because the term is not clearly defined and the credential is not meant to be limited to working professionals, though many departments are gearing toward such. Additionally, some "professional" programs already exist at the UO. Though the term "Micro" sounds diminutive, it is a nationally recognized term, and is fitting for a 12-credit program.

To ensure that there is proper oversight and administration of this program, departments will be required to enter all details into CourseLeaf for review and approval, just as any other degree program. There must also be support from Deans, and clear guidelines on how the programs will be monitored.

With a 6-4 vote, the Graduate Council approved Option 2 of the proposal. Professor Aaron Gullickson motioned to approve the name "Graduate Microcredential." Professor Barbara Muraca seconded the motion, and the Council had majority approval.

### **MA Language Policy Implementation**

This is a revised proposal that incorporates feedback from the last Graduate Council meeting, mainly the Council's recommendation that a subcommittee review all requested changes to programs' language requirements. Departments would submit a proposal and rationale via Qualtrics directly to the Graduate Council committee for review.

Professor France White suggested that the committee be charged with determining review criteria and creating a formal process.

Professor Beth Harn motioned to approve this proposal. Professor Frances White seconded the motion, and the Council were in agreement.

The Council adjourned at 11:41am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leslie Straka  
Graduate Council Secretary