

# Minutes

## The Graduate Council

University of Oregon Senate Committee

March 10, 2025, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Zoom

---

**Members Present:** Sandra Boone, Ron Bramhall (*ex officio*) (*joined 12:30pm*), Jason Brown, Krista Chronister (*ex officio*), Erik Girvan, Bonnie Gutierrez (*ex officio*), Beth Harn, Maile Hutterer, Leigh Johnson, Ben McMorran, Kate Mills, Barbara Muraca, Jesus Ramos-Kittrell, Denita Strietelmeier (*ex officio*), Dean Walton (*ex officio*), Laura Wellman (*joined 1:20pm*)

**Members Absent:** John Beckerman, Gabriela Martinez, Josh Snodgrass

**Division Staff Present:** Jered Nagel, Austin Bosworth

---

**Graduate Council Charge:** The Graduate Council shall advise the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies on matters pertaining to graduate study at the University of Oregon.

Specifically, and in addition to its advisory role, the Graduate Council:

- (1) Establishes policies and regulations governing graduate study at the University of Oregon, and reviews and votes to approve changes or additions to such policies.
- (2) Reviews and votes to approve new graduate programs, revisions to degree requirements for existing graduate programs, and other changes to existing graduate programs, while ensuring highest standards for graduate education.
- (3) Reviews and makes recommendations to the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies on academic grievance appeals in accordance with the University's established grievance procedures.
- (4) Provides input and guidance to the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies on initiatives aimed at enhancing excellence, diversity, and access in graduate education.
- (5) Provides University administration and Unit leaders across campus with opinion and counsel on university affairs affecting graduate education and graduate students, including issues of equity in service to graduate students.

---

## **AGENDA**

**Approval of March minutes (12:00-12:05)**

**Standalone MS in Management (12:05-12:25)**

**Master of Accounting Degree and Graduate Specializations (12:25-12:55)**

**Microcredential in Community Podcasting (12:55 -1:15)**

**Graduate Specialization in Quantum and Nanotechnology (1:15-1:45)**

**Open Discussion as Needed (1:45-2:00)**

---

## **Call to Order**

Graduate Council was called to order 12:03pm.

**Approval of February minutes (12:00-12:05)**

---

## **Standalone MS in Management (12:05-12:25)**

*Guests: Kathryn Hart, Angela Davis, Eren Cil, Joshua Dickinson*

*Carryover from last meeting. Council requested that the Business School provide additional information about the relationship between the MSM and MBA and the value of the MSM to students enrolled in that program and that a representative from the Business school come to the next meeting to answer questions.*

## **Questions**

Would the impact of this standalone dilute the impact of the MBA?

- Students who complete the Standalone would then go out and get work experience, then return for an MBA after work experience to the accelerated path if they choose

How many years of work does a student need to seek out an MBA?

- There is no hard number, but 3-5 years is a preference, but no minimum.

Will the standalone program reduce MBA enrollment?

- Potentially, but students are better-served having both programs; many applicants have been turned away for insufficient work experience, which would serve the MSM

Question: How separate will be curriculum between MSM and MBA be?

- There will be overlap, especially in the early years, in some of the core classes; however, there will be professional development opportunities specifically for MSM students and a capstone

Does the School have staff capacity to handle the expected full enrollment (30-35 in each program)?

- Yes, the plan does currently have a path to cover all needs with current staffing levels, but if enrolment increases to the goal levels they may increase staffing

The Graduate Council approved the MS Standalone in Management at 1:05pm. One vote against, Jesus Ramos-Kittrell, and one abstention, Maile Hutterer.

---

## **Master of Accounting Degree and Graduate Specializations (12:25-12:55)**

*Guest: Nicole Johnson*

### ***Master of Accounting Revisions***

*Proposing a more streamlined core which will include a new course in data analytics, a core skill area for professional accountants, along with optional specializations (Taxation, Audit & Financial Reporting, and Data Analytics), that give students more flexibility overall while also encouraging them to seek in-depth knowledge in their area(s) of interest.*

The Graduate Council unanimously approved the Master of Accounting revisions at 1:08pm.

### ***Graduate Specialization in Data Analytics***

*Accounting and finance professionals rely heavily on leveraging large data sets to analyze complex accounting and business problems and communicate actionable insights. Students completing the Data Analytics Specialization will gain technical and*

*communication skills that are highly valued by accounting, consulting and other business professional firms. We have historically offered a three-course sequence in accounting data and analytics as well as other related courses in our MActg program, and advised students interested in developing skills in this area to take those that were not required as electives. Creating the specialization will formalize this practice and provide students with a credential on their transcript.*

Concerns were raised around the naming of this specialization and potential conflicts with other programs that may seek to name a Specialization, Minor, Major, etc. as Data Analytics.

- The Division of Graduate Studies, The Office of the Registrar, and Office of the Provost will work with the interested parties to resolve this issue.

Motion to approve the curriculum with a provision for resolving the name of the specialization prior to the release of the Spring Curriculum Report.

The Graduate Council approved the Graduate Specialization in Data Analytics at 2:03pm conditional to resolving the naming issue.

### ***Graduate Specialization in Audit and Financial Reporting***

*Auditing is one of the major fields of accounting and large accounting firms regularly hire students to work in their audit practices. Organizations primarily engage auditors to review and provide an independent opinion on their financial statements, so the specialization focuses on auditing and financial reporting. We have historically offered auditing and financial reporting courses in our MActg program and advised students interested in pursuing careers in auditing to take those that were not required as electives. Creating the specialization will formalize this practice and provide students with a credential on their transcript.*

The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the Accounting Graduate Specialization in Audit and Financial Reporting at 1:18pm.

### ***Graduate Specialization in Taxation***

*Tax is one of the major fields of accounting and large accounting firms regularly hire students to work in their tax practices. We have historically offered multiple tax courses in*

*our MActg program and advised students interested in pursuing careers in tax accounting to take those that were not required as electives. Creating the specialization will formalize this practice and provide students with a credential on their transcript.*

## **Questions**

The Specializations could be completed by arranging the required classes as electives, correct?

- Yes, that is correct.

Naming a Specialization ‘Taxation’ may be problematic because of the Law School’s focus on taxation as well, or Data Analytics – have you considered being more specific in the naming or trying to include other classes on campus regarding those topics?

- It was voiced that being specific in the naming would be redundant, and that it would be difficult to incorporate classes from the Law School because they work on a semester schedule

Can two Specializations have the same name?

- Not clear at this time.

The issue of naming the specializations was tabled at this time because it will be managed in collaboration between the Division of Graduate Studies, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Registrar, and interested parties.

Motion to approve the curriculum with a provision for resolving the name of the specialization prior to the release of the Spring Curriculum Report.

The Graduate Council approved the Graduate Specialization in Data Analytics at 2:03pm conditional to resolving the naming issue.

---

## **Microcredential in Community Podcasting (12:55 -1:15)**

*Carryover from last meeting. New courses will be reviewed by UOCC in early Spring; requesting that the council vote to approve conditional on course approvals.*

The Graduate Council approved the Microcredential in Community Podcasting at 1:54pm.  
Abstention by Sandra Boone.

---

## **Graduate Specialization in Quantum and Nanotechnology (1:15-1:45)**

*Guests: Nik Zhelev, Benjamin Aleman*

*The proposed Quantum and Nanotechnology graduate specialization, housed within the Applied Physics master's program, is an innovative, industry-focused program that equips students with advanced skills in quantum science, nanofabrication, radio-frequency electronics, and cryogenic technology. Building on the success of the University of Oregon's nationally recognized Applied Physics Master's program, this specialization combines rigorous coursework, hands-on training, and a nine-month paid industry internship. It prepares graduates for high-demand careers in quantum computing, superconducting quantum circuits, nanoelectromechanical systems (NEMS), photonics, and advanced materials research.*

*Note: Courses are not yet approved. Any vote to approve the program must be conditional.*

University of Oregon grants more Physics Masters' degrees than any other University in the U.S, these programs are popular for a myriad of reasons. This new specialization attempts to bring the university and its students into the new and exciting world of quantum computing and nanotechnology. The program has 5 terms, 54 credits, where last 9 months, or 3 terms, is done off-site at an internship site. The presentation also highlighted the industry connections that they expect to collaborate with on placing students for their internship.

### **Questions**

Do you expect enough student interest to make this program sustainable over time?

- 10 currently accepted, expect in the future to be similar to other programs at Knight Campus, which have 27-30 students

What will interactions be like with their advisors during the internship phase?

- The Director of Professional Development will serve as instructor of record and maintain communication with the student bi-weekly to make sure the student is not experiencing any difficulties

- There is typically a faculty member along with an instructor of record that will keep communication with the student along with the instructor of record, and some faculty may act as points of contact because of their expertise or connections to certain industries/companies

At the Division of Graduate Studies, we encourage all internships to have MOUs with the partners, and we have examples of MOUs from Chemistry.

How will the addition of the program affect enrollment in other Knight Campus programs?

- The students interested in this program are markedly different from the students who seek out Optics or Semiconductor. Students seeking out the Quantum track are different, and their numbers are growing.

Motion to table the discussion of the Graduate Specialization in Quantum and Nanotechnology. Presenters will be asked to attend a future meeting to answer further questions from the council.

---

### **Open Discussion as Needed (1:45-2:00)**

### **Adjourn**

The Graduate Council adjourned at 2:05pm.