The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm.

**Micro-credentials**

The Division of Graduate Studies presented a proposal to implement a graduate micro-credentialing structure. Various schools and colleges at the UO have been inquiring about this type of format, and it is a common practice across many universities. It serves mainly as a pathway for non-degree seeking, working professionals to obtain extra training in a specific area that may be necessary for them to advance in their workplace. Individuals who earn a micro-credential would be allowed to transfer those credits into a degree program if they choose.

The main concerns voiced by the Graduate Council on this proposal include:

- **Can degree-seeking students also obtain micro-credentials?**
  - The current proposal does not consider already admitted students, but the Division will go back and review that possibility.
- **What will the tuition/fee model be for these types of students?**
  - The Division is working with the Registrar to determine how these students will be classified, and how the tuition/fee model will be determined. It may be possible to allow the colleges and schools propose their own rates.
  - For degree-seeking students, taking courses toward a micro-credential could possibly be rolled into their tuition as part of their regular or required course credits.
- **Need clarity on how non-degree seeking students will fit into the University’s academic structure**
- **How is this different than a community education program?**
  - Community education courses are more freeform, where students choose courses for enrichment purposes. The micro-credential would involve department approval, sequential academic training, include a philosophy and pedagogy, and result in a valued skill that is recorded on the student’s transcript.
- **The proposal needs to clearly state the value of the micro-credential and how it will benefit the student.**
  - Admittedly, many micro-credentials being offered at various institutions have gotten out of control and have become ways to bring in money without offering any real value to the student.
  - The integrity of the micro-credential lies with the issuing institution, so it would be the UO's responsibility to retain oversight of the programs.
- **The proposal needs detail on who will manage the program and ensure that requirements are being met, and how advising and admissions will come into play.**
### Incomplete Policy

The Undergraduate Council recently approved a new policy on Incompletes, and the purpose of this proposal is for the Graduate Council to determine whether the same or similar policy should be adopted at the graduate level.

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Ron Bramhall, explained that the Incomplete Policy at both the undergraduate and graduate level has not been very clear in its guidelines, creating confusion in what is allowed. Under the current policy, if a student withdraws from a course and does not complete the required assignments within the timeframe outlined in the contract, their grade defaults to an F (or an "I" for graduate students). The new policy allows programs to consider the grade that the student would have achieved even without that coursework, which may be higher than an F. Additionally, the new policy offers clear guidance on when an Incomplete should be considered, such when a student is facing unexpected circumstances that prevent them from completing the course. Standardizing this policy across undergraduate and graduate levels would allow disputes to be resolved uniformly and protect faculty and students.

Overall, the majority of the Graduate Council are impressed by the policy and believe it will be very helpful. Some minor issues that the Council noted include:

- Potential problems surrounding Incompletes in 601 or 605 which usually extend across multiple years.
  - Faculty will have the ability to determine whether or not the appropriate level of coursework was done for that year and enter a letter grade accordingly, even after the term has ended and even if the project is not complete.
  - To prevent potential problems regarding these courses, some programs require a permission to register form to ensure the student will be able to achieve what is required of them.
- Need clarification on the timeline for filing a contract.
  - Operational aspects such as this are still being determined.

Professor Aaron Gullickson motioned to approve the proposal and adopt the undergraduate policy in full at the graduate level. Professor Leslie Straka seconded the motion, and the Graduate Council was in approval.

### English Language Proficiency (ELP) Requirement for Admissions

Director of Admissions and Enrollment for the Division of Graduate Studies, Hannah Schneider-Lynch, joined the Graduate Council meeting to gather feedback on the proposed realignment of the ELP requirement policy. She explained that the Division currently has minimum English proficiency standards to ensure that students can succeed in their programs, and that the policy was intended for non-native English speakers. However, over the years, modifications were repeatedly made to the policy, and it subsequently became a requirement for all international applicants. Hannah, along with her colleague Lesley Yates-Pollard, found that international students who were fluent in English were spending money on an English proficiency test just to satisfy this requirement.

Hannah proposed updating the language of the policy from “international applicants” to “applicants whose primary language is not English.” She also mentioned that the policy also allows programs to have higher standards and require the test if they choose.

The Graduate Council were pleased with Hannah’s proposal and approved of the changes to the policy.
Online Master's in Immersive Media

This proposal was originally discussed in the last Graduate Council meeting, and the new courses have since been uploaded into the UOCC workflow. Professor Frances White confirmed that these courses are on track to be approved, so the Council may proceed with a vote.

Professor Christopher Chavez motioned to approve the proposal pending the UOCC’s approval of the courses. Professor Aaron Gullickson seconded the motion, and the Council were in agreement.

PhD in Data-Driven Music

This proposal was also discussed in last month’s Graduate Council meeting, but the Council could not vote because of questions/concerns that needed to be addressed. Professor Jeffrey Stolet has since responded to those questions, and they were shared with the Council.

The Council still expressed concern that though the program involves working with data, it does not contain many courses on data science, math, or statistics. The proposal also illustrates the potential for a wide range of job opportunities in the data science field, but data science seems to be a small part of the degree. Professor Leslie Straka, confirmed that the program is music-focused rather than math or science focused, but also includes research and a final dissertation unlike the DMA. She also included that coursework for this PhD already exists within the DMA, so no new courses are being created, and therefore no additional resources are required.

The Graduate Council understands that this area of study is very new, very specific, and highly regarded in music fields so despite their concerns they decided to proceed with a vote.

Professor Ihab Elzeyadi motioned to approve the proposal. Professor Leslie Straka seconded, and the Council were in agreement.

MA Language Policy

This proposal is to revise the current language policy for Master of Arts degrees so that departments have more flexibility in determining what language proficiency is best suited for different programs. The current UO policy requires that in order to graduate, all MA students must demonstrate second-year proficiency in a language other than English, which is verified via coursework, standardized test, petition, etc. The proposal includes several options on how to proceed with amending the policy:

- Option 1: Retain the requirement that students demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language, but eliminate university-wide second-year proficiency requirement, and allow departments to determine what level of proficiency makes the most sense for their programs.

- Option 2: Eliminate the university-wide language requirement altogether and let the department decide whether foreign language proficiency should be required for an MA, and if it is, at what level.

Assistance Vice Provost, Jered Nagel, informed the Council that many other institutions do not have this language requirement for their MA programs, and requiring language in certain programs may not be necessary. This may also result in some programs eliminating their MA altogether and only offering an MS.

Professor Frances White voiced that language requirements should be program-specific rather than department-specific, or even have different tracks depending on the students’ academic path.
Many Council members agreed that departments and programs should be allowed to set their own language requirement.

Professor Leslie Straka motioned to approve Option 2 of the proposal. Professor Beth Harn seconded, and the Council unanimously approved.

The Council adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

_____________________________________
Leslie Straka
Graduate Council Secretary