The meeting was called to order at 3:32pm and the March minutes were approved.

**Preferred First Names on Theses and Dissertations**

Jered Nagel opened conversation on this proposal, in that it would allow students to use either their legal or preferred first name, as recorded with the UO, on their thesis or dissertation. It would also allow the optional use of a legal middle name or initial. Their legal last name, however, is still required.

Overall, the Graduate Council was supportive of this proposal and believe it is an important first step in recognizing an individual’s preferred name as an essential part of their identity, particularly those in the LGBTQ community. Approval of this proposal means that the preferred name may be used moving forward. However, it raised some concern for students who are currently in the process of changing their legal name at the state level. The Council discussed the possibility of implementing a policy that would allow students to petition to retroactively change their name on past documents or records once a legal name change has been made.

Frances White added that when someone has a legal name change, they have the option to close their previous name from public view so that they are in no way tied to their old name. If a student chose to do this, it could cause some issues in verifying a student's identity. The University would have to determine what sort of releases may be necessary if their identity needed to be verified.

The Council is eager to pursue this idea and discuss it further although making changes in this area would be a lengthy process and require cooperation from departments across campus including the Registrar, Libraries, etc. Julia Pomerenk offered to reach out to partner institutions to gather information on how they handle situations like these and what policies they have in place.

Robin Clement motioned to approve this proposal. Huaxin Lin seconded the motion, and the Council approved.

**Spanish PhD – New Program**

Robin Clement had submitted a list of questions that the Graduate Council needed more clarity on regarding this proposal, and the responses were shared with the group. Cecilia Enjuto joined the meeting to offer further explanation.

- Students may take RL 601 and 605 while studying for exams in order to fulfill the 9 credit hours to be a GE and to supplement their teaching. It is not a requirement of the program.
- A co-degree with UO Teach is not appropriate for this degree.
Most students do not enter this program with the intention of pursuing a career in the educational field. However, if education is their goal, they will be advised to take electives in that area.

Similarly, students who are interested in areas such as anthropology, philosophy, history, translation studies, etc., will be advised to take electives in those areas.

This maintains flexibility to do more interdisciplinary work and lets students consider their own paths.

- Concern about target language ability
  - Students who join the program are either native, bilingual, or very advanced speakers.
  - As part of the application process, students submit a writing sample and undergo an oral evaluation to make sure their skills are strong enough to be successful in the program.

Fabienne Moore motioned to approve this proposal. Jeremy Piger seconded the motion, and the Council approved. Joan Rocklin abstained from voting.

**Romance Languages PhD – Revision**

Cecilia Enjuto remained in the meeting to discuss the updates to this program as well. One major change is that it will follow suit with the Spanish PhD and allow BA students to apply to the program as well as MA students. This broadens the application pool and gives BA students a head start if they know they want to pursue a PhD.

Burke Hendrix was concerned about having such different tracks among the BA and MA students because in his experience, they have always been the same regardless of level. Jered Nagel confirmed however that it is common for programs to take this approach.

Ihab Elzeyadi wondered if BA students might try to take advantage of having access to PhD coursework, where they load up on credit and then decide to stop at a Master’s degree. Cecilia clarified that the PhD and Masters courses are the same level and are very rigorous. Fabienne Moore added that the first two years are structured with courses that would be more relevant for a Master’s, so if they did decide to stop, they will have completed the MA requirements.

Ihab Elzeyadi motioned to approve this proposal. Fabienne Moore seconded, and the Council approved. Joan Rocklin abstained from voting.

**Collaborative Piano – New Specialization**

The creator of this proposed specialization, David Riley, joined the Graduate Council meeting to provide an overview of the program. He explained to the Council that this specialization is geared toward solo Piano Performance PhDs, and was intentionally designed to be more experience-focused rather than academic-focused. In this program, students will have the opportunity to gain experience in both the performance and teaching of chamber music, art song, and opera. The students will take lessons with him for 2 years, and then perform in a recital either among a piano quartet or with singers. David pointed out that today’s concert scene is focusing more on trios and quartets consisting of a variety of instruments and performers, and that learning to collaborate in this setting will make students more marketable upon graduation.

Some Council members expressed concern in having specializations that rely on a single person. However, Leslie Straka says this is very common in these fields. If the professor were to leave the University, he would either be replaced, or the specialization would be discontinued.

Leslie Straka motioned to approve this proposal. Fabienne Moore seconded the motion, and the Council approved.
Colin Koopman and Erin McKenna joined the Graduate Council meeting to answer questions about this proposal. Erin explained that overall, these revisions were made to strengthen focus on the diversity requirements of the program and to offer a wider variety of courses. Additionally, the traditions courses and seminars were changed to 400/500 level so that undergrads can take advantage of them as well.

Attached to the proposal was a question and answer document between the CAS Curriculum Committee and the Philosophy department. Fabienne Moore felt that the language in the document seemed accusatory and defensive with CAS putting pressure on the department to downsize their 600 level courses because they weren’t being filled. She wondered if downsizing of the PhD by making 600 level courses into 400/500 level courses made it less rigorous. Colin explained however that 500 and 600 level courses are equal, so even though undergraduates can take the new 400/500 level courses, they are actually designed for graduate students and are quite advanced.

Fabienne asked about the relationship between the MA and the PhD, and whether or not they admit their own MAs into the PhD program. Colin says that the MA is a terminal MA and completely separate from PhD, but many students do go on to doctoral programs. There are no restrictions on MAs applying for the PhD program, but it is very competitive. The PhD program receives about 150 applications per year, and only accepts about 4-7 students.

Colin and Erin departed the meeting. The Council continued to discuss the bigger issue that many 600 level courses are consistently being eliminated across campus, which the Council feels will diminish the overall quality of the program. At the same time, administration is calling for larger undergraduate classes, but not allowing them to subsidize the 600 level courses which is cause for confusion.

Due to time constraints, the Graduate Council will defer voting on this proposal until the next meeting.

Holdover Items:
Landscape Architecture – Revision

Meeting Adjourned at 5:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fabienne Moore
Graduate Council Secretary