Some Advice for TeXing Your UO Dissertation

As continually reiterated by the Graduate School, there are several templates for a UO dissertation floating around the university, but almost all of them are out of date. The more or less official template used to be found at this website, but has since been removed for some reason. Fortunately, the math department has posted on their website, under the resources tab, in the dissertation help section. Unfortunately, even this template is not perfect as the original programmer and person who kept it updated has since left the university. Fortunately, the rules for the thesis have not changed (much) since 2010 [1] and so only a few changes need to be made. Also, there are a number of options that either need to be understood for the thesis to be acceptable, or that are allowable and will help your dissertation to be more acceptable. Following are fifteen pieces of advice that may prove useful.

1. In the "cover.tex" file, which holds most of the information for the prefatory (introductory) pages, one line is `\narrowdepartment{}`. Some departments have an official, shortened form of the department name. Most do not. If yours does not, just rewrite the name of your department here as well. This line cannot be commented out if you want your file to compile.

2. There is also a line `\graddean{}`. The name in the template is for someone who is not longer the dean. Look up the appropriate dean. The current website for this is found here.

3. Similarly, the class file currently lists the dean as the "Vice President for Research & Innovation," which is not true of the current dean. To fix this, open the uothesis.cls file and search for innovation, then delete the text "Vice President for Research \& Innovation /".

4. In most cases, your committee chair will be the same as your advisor. If this is true, search for "\@advisor & Advisor\\" in the uothesis.cls file and delete that line.

5. Similarly, if you have no grants, awards, or honors to brag about, search and delete the line "\cvitem{GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS}{\@awards}" from the uothesis.cls file.

6. Your `\degreetype` is not "Doctor of Mathematics" or similar, but "Doctor of Philosophy" or similar.

7. The easiest way to make the bibliography is to compile a bibliography somewhere, using LaTeX, then copy and paste the entry into the `\publication{}` lines of the cv.tex file. Remember to put the most recent publications *first*.

8. For publications that are either only submitted, or accepted but not yet published, put "(Submitted)" or "(In press)" respectively after the appropriate citation in your publication list for your CV.

9. For the table of contents, if after you have compiled, the title of your

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[1] This advice was written in June of 2015.

chapter goes beyond the length of the line and past the page number, shorten the length of your chapter title. As far as I know there is no quick work around to this, and they do *not* like this happening.

10. It is acceptable to change the bibliography style to something appropriate for you discipline. The standard one in the main.tex file, chosen at the very end by the code `\bibliographystyle{unsrtnat}`, cites only the year in the text, and has no numbers or labels for the bibliography entries in the REFERENCES CITED page. Personally, I prefer the "alpha" style, which gives initials and a year for each reference, like "[DIMM14]". Make sure to include the appropriate package at the beginning of the main.tex file, if you need one! In addition, when you submit the final dissertation, they will ask what style you are using. The easiest way to deal with this is to pick a style that is the same as a journal you've already published in, print out your paper from that journal, and then list that journal as the "style" you selected.

11. The class file does not call many common packages used. Don't forget to include your usual packages, and to define your usual theorem types and commands. For a mathematician, you might include the following in your main.tex file:

```
\usepackage{amsmath}
\usepackage{amssymb}
\usepackage{amsthm}

\newcommand{\R}{{\mathbb R}}
\newcommand{\Q}{{\mathbb Q}}
\newcommand{\Z}{\mathbb{Z}}

\newcommand{\Number}{section}
\theoremstyle{plain}
\newtheorem{thm}{Theorem}[\Number]
\newtheorem{lem}[thm]{Lemma}
\newtheorem{lemma}[thm]{Lemma}
\newtheorem{prop}[thm]{Proposition}
\newtheorem{cor}[thm]{Corollary}
\newtheorem{claim}[thm]{Claim}
\newtheorem{remark}[thm]{Remark}
\newtheorem{defn}[thm]{Definition}
\newtheorem{assumpt}[thm]{Assumption}
```

12. The sections in a chapter are *not* automatically numbered. It is acceptable to have them numbered. Fortunately, the class file makes this easy to change. In the main.tex file, add "`numsections`" to the list of options in the square brackets of

```
\documentclass[dissertation, copyright, final]{uothesis}
```

. This will number sections, though not subsections, if you have them. This will change the section numbers in the format 1.1, etc. The graduate school, however, wants them to be in the format 1.1.. To fix this, find the line in the class file "\edef\@svsec{\csname the#1\endcsname~~}" and add a period after "csname".

13. If you have no figures or no tables in your dissertation, similarly add "`nofigures`" or "`notables`" to the list of options.

14. Though this advice is not related to TEXing your thesis, if material in your dissertation is coauthored, whether previously published or not, there is a form to submit, the "Content and Style Request Form" currently found halfway down this page, and you have to acknowledge this fact in your Abstract, in Chapter 1, *and* at the beginning of the chapter with the coauthored material. In your abstract, use an appropriate variant of "This dissertation includes previously published coauthored material." In the chapter, the acknowledgement must be the first paragraph, and it must be a separate paragraph.

15. Finally, if you are unsure your dissertation meets the university's style guidelines, visit the thesis editor at the graduate school building. (S)he will quickly look at your thesis and make sure everything looks correct. No appointments are necessary, but consultations are only available at certain times of the week. Current information on this service is available here.