

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2018 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

- PLACE:** Couper Administration Building – Room 148
- PRESIDING:** Aondover Tarhule, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
- MEMBERS:** Tamara Brown, Anne Clark, Raviraj Deshmukh, Shelley Dionne, Yetrib Hathout, Mohammad Khasawneh, Adam Laats, Elizabeth Mellin, Weiyi Meng, Andreas Pape, Xingye Qiao, Pam Smart, Nathan Tumey, Nancy Um
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Sarah Lam
- EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Bat-Ami Bar On, Timothy Barnes (GSO), Subimal Chatterjee, Yu Chen, Paul Chiarot, Jonathan Christiansen, Mary Beth Curtin, Robert Guay, Paul Parker, Mark Poliks, Gale Spencer, Christine Sylvester (GSO), Elizabeth Tucker, Leigh Ann Wheeler, Shengsheng Zhou (GSO)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Tarhule called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the January 29, 2018 were approved as written.

III. Report from Committees

Curriculum Committee – Associate Dean Sarah Lam reported that the Committee met on February 19, 2018 and approved two Graduate course proposals. EDUC 570 – Making and Tinkering for Youth Engagement and Professional Learning and PSYC 618 – Biological Bases of Behavior. No questions were raised. Both course proposals stand approved.

Associate Dean Lam presented the proposal for reform to PhD Program in Sociology. Jason Moore was on hand to answer questions. A formal vote was taken and the proposal was approved unanimously.

Associate Dean Lam presented a summary of the MS in Data Analytics degree proposal. The host department will be School of Management but will collaborate with Watson and Harpur. This proposal went through an external review. Reviewers were Rabikar Chatterjee from University of Pittsburgh and Simon Sheather from Texas A&M University. Manoj Agarwal was on hand to answer questions. Others collaborating on the proposal who are Graduate Council

members include Weiyi Meng, Xingye Qiao and Mohammed Khasawneh. A formal vote was taken and the proposal was approved unanimously.

Associate Dean Lam presented a program revision proposal in Biomedical Engineering. The proposal replaces one of the core courses with BME 683, and streamlines the curriculum for students entering the doctoral program in BME with different academic backgrounds. A formal vote was taken and the proposal was approved.

Academic Standards Committee – Dean Tarhule presented the report of this committee’s deliberations. The Committee met twice (in January and February). The Committee reviewed a draft policy proposal on double master’s degrees that responds to changes at SUNY and SED. Previously joint or dual degrees were approved by SUNY and State Ed. In late 2017, the university was notified that SUNY and SED will no longer review proposals leading to the award of two degrees unless the degrees were conceived as such and required a single admission mechanism and degree conferral. SUNY states that an institution is at liberty to award a student two master’s degrees subject to that institution’s guidelines without seeking approval from SUNY. The only restrictions are that degrees not approved by SUNY cannot be labeled or advertised as “dual”, “joint” or “registered”. Nadia Rubaii and Kristina Lambright were on hand to help answer questions. The proposed policy recommended calling internally created collaborative degrees as “double degree”. “Double degree” comprise two separate diplomas and the student pays for both. The student will need to apply and be accepted to both programs. However, they are cheaper because the student is allowed to double count some credits toward both degrees.

On the subject of how many credits can be double counted, the Academic Standards Committee recommended 36% of the total credits in the degree program with lower credit hours. Following further discussions GC amended the requirement to read, a student may double count no more than 25% of the combined credit hours in the two degree programs and no more than 50% of the credit hours in any one degree.

Proposals for double degrees will follow the same format as the current SUNY form. The proposals will be submitted to the Graduate School, reviewed by the Curriculum Committee and final approval provided by the Graduate Council. EPPC will be informed of all such degrees.

The policy was voted on and approved. The Graduate School will clean up the document and add it to the Graduate School manual.

Dean Tarhule summarized the ASC discussion and recommendations for changes to the language in the Graduate School manual concerning severance. The Committee is of the opinion that there is possible ambiguity in the current language regarding how many semesters a student can remain on probation before being severed.

Following discussions, the following language was adopted:

“...a graduate program may only continue a student with a cumulative GPA below 3.0 on probation for a maximum of three semesters (excluding summer sessions) except in extra ordinary

circumstances. Their continued enrollment will require the specific written endorsement of the director of graduate studies and approval by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School”

It will replace the following statements in the current Graduate School Manual:

“...a graduate program may only continue a student with a cumulative GPA below 3.0 on probation for a maximum of three semesters (excluding summer session)”.

“Students whose grade-point average would place them on a fourth semester of academic probation or a second semester in academic jeopardy are not making satisfactory progress toward the degree. Normally they will be severed from the Graduate School. Their continued enrollment will require the specific written endorsement of the director of graduate studies and approval by the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School”

The proposed change was voted upon and approved.

Dean Tarhule reported that the ASC also discussed spring severances. The issue is that students are sometimes severed very close to the start of the spring semester imposing difficulties especially for international students. The Committee could come up with no viable remedy and recommends that

Students whose grade point average would put them at risk of severance in spring should be forewarned early in the fall semester. Departments should also be encouraged to more strictly follow existing guidelines which require that students on probation should be counseled by their academic advisors

No vote was taken as it entailed no policy change.

The next discussion was another FYI regarding severed students on the PhD track. The question was whether Ph.D students who are severed prior to receiving their degree should be awarded a master’s degree. The ASC voted no and recommends that the affected schools resolve such matters internally.

Dean Tarhule reported on some discussions the ASC had about possibly streamlining the proposal approval process. The GC decided to leave the existing process unchanged. Dean Tarhule solicited the Committees’ help in identifying and recruiting a Faculty Fellow to help departments with the proposal development process.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research – This Committee meets every week. No update given.

Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee – This Committee has not met

Clark Advisory Committee – This Committee met on February 13, 2018. Committee reviewed 12 nominations in this round. Seven offers have been made. The next deadline is Thursday, March 1.

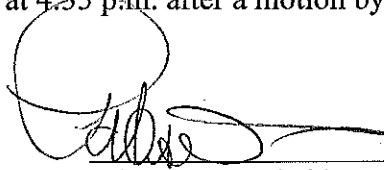
Strategic Planning Committee – not met

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Graduate School announced they have an open position for Faculty Fellow.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. after a motion by Anne Clark and seconded by Yetrib Hathout.



Minutes recorded by Patty Gabriel,
Secretary to the Vice Provost and Dean
of the Graduate School