

## BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

### MINUTES OF THE December 10, 2018 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

**PLACE:** Couper Administration Building – Room 148

**PRESIDING:** Aondover Tarhule, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

**MEMBERS:** Manoj Agarwal, David Campbell, Chang Liu (GSO), Paul Chiarot, Nikolay Dimitrov, Robert Guay, Yetrib Hathout, Kimberly Jaussi, Matthew Johnson, Adam Laats, Lucky Mason-Williams, Tarun Mastana (GSO), Weiyi Meng, Andreas Pape, Xingye Qiao, Gale Spencer, Douglas Summerville,

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Gretchen Mahler, Sara Reiter

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Christopher Bishop, Peter Borgesen, Mary Beth Curtin, Paul Parker, Nadia Rubaii, Pamela Smart, Nancy Um

#### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Tarhule called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

#### II. MINUTES

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

#### III. Report from Committees

**Curriculum Committee** – Gretchen Mahler presented the report of the curriculum committee's recommendations. The committee reviewed two (2) course proposals.

ANTH 594 – Teaching Laboratory Anthropology. Michael Shamoony-Pour from the Anthropology Department was present to answer questions. This proposal came to Council last month. The course is designed to provide anthropology graduate students with skills required to teach a lab course and train students to work in a lab setting. The course includes training in teaching methods, as well as the basic laboratory and data analysis skills to be taught in educational and research anthropology laboratories. The major concern initially was the amount of time students were spending on the course relative to credit hours. Proposed changes were that students could take the course either as two or four credits commensurate with the amount of time that will be spent inside and outside of the lab. A student may also take the course multiple times. In the previous version, students were required to pay the \$100 course fees each time they took the course. In the revised version, the \$100 fee has been changed to \$100 fee the first time a student takes the 4 credit class and no fee for the 2 credit course. No further objections were presented and this course proposal was approved by Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council. Department will be notified and course will be created.

MSE 598 – Research Project. Louis Piper, director of the MSE program/Physics Department was in attendance to answer questions. This is the course students will take in MSE when they are completing their MS research project. The course will replace the requirement for a formal research thesis since accelerated students typically do not have sufficient time to properly do a research thesis. A question was raised about whether the lack of a formal thesis could be detrimental to students who chose to do PhD after completing this program. The department does not see believe this would be a problem. No further objections were raised and this course proposal was approved by Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council. Department will be notified and course will be created.

This committee reviewed one (1) proposal to deactivate the Fast-Track MBA program. George Bobinski from the School of Management was available to answer questions. This is for the fast track professional MBA (PMBA) which is offered in New York City. Asking to deactivate as of September 1, 2020. The reason for the deactivation is that the PMBA is offered in conjunction with the Executive MBA (EMPA) in NYC. However, the EMBA will be moving to the Optometry School in NYC in [when] so this deactivation is needed to allow the PMBA program time to find a new location. In response to a question about the differences between the two programs, Bobinski explained that the PMBA is designed for a young group with 3-5 years' experience vs the EMBA students, which targets working professionals with about 8-15 years' experience. The reason for the relocation of one program is that having both at the same location a SUNY branch campus designation/approval. This is not a discontinuance of the program. The deactivation is designed only to allow time for the program to relocate. The deactivate of Fast-Track MBA program was approved by Curriculum and Graduate Council. Will move onto next steps (EPPC) and will need to go to SUNY.

Associate Dean, Gretchen Mahler, presented the curriculum Committee's recommendations for five Program Revision Proposals These are:

1. Masters of Business Administration. George Bobinski from School of Management was available to answer questions. The proposed revision will cause the program to exceed the 20% of the original SED approved program so will require resubmission to SUNY. The proposal is to (i) reduce the number of credit hours for the program from 69 to between 51 and 57. The rationale for the proposed change is that the current program is significantly higher than almost all other AACSB accredited programs. Specific aspects of the change will include convert our core foundational MBA classes from four-credit hours to three-credit hours. Content in these classes is fairly standard and is almost without exception covered in 3 credit hours by other leading business schools. Associate Dean, George Bobinski explained that the proposed revision had previously been approved by the Graduate Council as part of SoM larger proposed curriculum changes. However, the proposal was not implemented at the time because some of the curriculum changes were linked to Harpur programs which had not been registered in a long time, causing the larger SoM curriculum revision effort to stall. SoM now desires to move forward with this slightly updated and more focused revision. The program was approved by Council in past but since it was linked to Harpur programs, it did not continue with process before. The proposal was approved by Curriculum and Council. Will move onto next stage. Needs to go to SUNY after final campus steps are completed.
2. Executive MBA was the next program discussed. George Bobinski from School of Management was available to answer questions. The proposal is to peg the number of credit hours at 41 and 47. The rationale for the change is convert our core foundational MBA classes from four-credit hours to three-credit hours. This would bring us into alignment with other MBA programs. The changes will have a minimum of 41 and maximum 47 credit hours. The students with considerable work experience will register for 41 credits. Students with less experience will register for 47 credits. Proposal is designed for students who are more experienced so fewer credits are required. The proposal was approved by Curriculum and Council. Will move onto next stage. Needs to go to SUNY after final campus steps are completed.
3. Political science PhD program – David Clark from Political Science was available to answer questions. The proposed change is to ensure that the students are familiar with all three fields in political science. Instead of requiring students to take only a single field-methodology course in one field of specialization, students must take one field-methodology course in each of the three fields. The goal is to ensure core courses for the Ph.D. program in political science complies with SED. The existing program was last registered in 1968. Consequently, incremental changes since that time have pushed the program out of compliance. The proposal was approved by Curriculum and Council. Will move onto next stage. Needs to go to SUNY after final campus steps are completed.

4. Material Science and Engineering BS Chemistry/MS Material Science –New program director, Louis Piper, attended to answer questions. The proposal revision is to recruit more students and make the accelerated program comparable with that of the regular MS program. The rationale for the revision is to provide students in the accelerated degree tracks (i.e. 4+1) the same options for degree completion as the regular MS students are offered. Specifically, the students will allow students in the accelerated tracks to do either a MS thesis or MS project. The expectations is that this flexibility will allow the program to attract more students and therefore increase enrollment. This program is overseen by the Office of Professions so it will need to go to SUNY. This proposal was approved and will be forwarded to the FSEC.
5. Material Science and Engineering BS Physics/MS Material Science. Louis Piper from Physics/MSE was available to answer questions. This proposal is the same as (4) above to recruit more students and make the accelerated program comparable with the one of the regular MS program. Historically this has been offered as a 4+1 but was not completely utilized or advertised. This program was also revised in order to give accelerated students the same options for completion as the regular MS students. The revisions will allow for a culminating event of either a MS thesis or MS project. This is housekeeping to increase students. This is proactive and recommended as change to help move forward and become more straightforward. Was approved by Curriculum and Council. Will go to SUNY once the campus steps are completed.

**Academic Standards Committee** – Gretchen Mahler presented the recommendation of the ASC on the Policy on deferrals for Accelerated Students. As background the current policy states if you are a current undergraduate accelerated student and do not want to start graduate school immediately upon graduation, you need to maintain continuance registration. That means you need to stay active, enroll, and pay for one-credit continuance enrollment. The policy was previously presented and reviewed by the Graduate Council in October 2018. Key questions raised at the time included within the statement around why you cannot continue to count the double credits. The answer is once your record severed from university, in order to get accelerated student and not continue and reapply you cannot reapply for graduate as accelerated student. In response to those questions, the current version of the policy has benefited someone applying from an outside college and our undergraduate students were hurt. Last month the Council had many questions and those have been corrected. This policy would help current accelerated programs like 4+1 or 3+2 students additional time to commit to graduate studies. As it stands now, in order to maintain their accelerated status, a student who does not begin the master's program immediately after graduating with their bachelor's degree needs to be enrolled in a 1-course credit class and pay fees and tuition. This would allow the accelerated student to defer for 1 year. The policy could potentially help maintain students we may otherwise lose without the 1-year deferral option. If a student is coming from a different school, they have this option and we wanted a policy that could encourage existing students. Policy was accepted by Curriculum and Graduate Council. The policy will be reflected on the Graduate School webpage.

**Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research** – This committee has not met.

**Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee** – This committee met on November 12 and December 3, 2018. Gretchen Mahler represented the recommendations of the committee. The committee reviewed graduate student application for Binghamton Foundation travel grants. Sixty-three applications were reviewed. Funding requests ranged from \$200 to \$500, most requests were for \$500. Of these, thirty were recommended for funding, with a low of \$245 and a maximum of \$500. Most of the awards were for an amount of \$500.

Dean Tarhule informed the Council that the BF was no longer able to provide funding to support graduate student conference travel. The reason is that the university had reallocated those funds toward the campus campaign. The graduate student travel grants were not the only once affected by this decision. The Council expressed strong disapproval about the lack of graduate student travel funds. The general sentiment expressed by several speakers was that the lack of conference travel grants at a time when the university has identified graduate student travel as a campus priority is embarrassing and incongruent

with rhetoric. Suggestions raised included writing a letter to the Provost and President to expressing the Council's strong desire that a solution be found to the lack of travel grants. The final decision was that Council encouraged Dean Tarhule to work with the Business Committee to develop a proposal or draft letter to the Provost for Council's review and endorsement.

Dean Tarhule informed the Council that Provost Nieman would like the Graduate School to raise the prestige of the Graduate Student Excellence awards. As response, the Excellence Awards ceremony will be a little different this year. [Explain how they will be different] The goal is the make graduate student award winners feel appreciated. Dean Tarhule appealed to Council members to help raise awareness about the event and to encourage faculty colleagues to attend the Excellence Award ceremony. The date of the awards is March 27, 2019.

**Clark Advisory Committee** – This committee has not met.

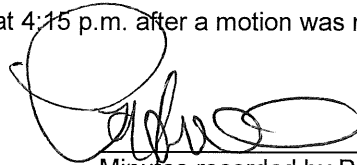
**Strategic Planning Committee** – This committee has not met.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

None

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. after a motion was made by Kimberly Jaussi and seconded by Gale Spencer.



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