

**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY**

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 30, 2020 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**3:30pm – 5:00pm**

---

**PLACE:** Zoom

**PRESIDING:** Donald G. Nieman, Provost & Interim Dean of the Graduate School

**MEMBERS:** Manoj Agarwal, Seden Akcinaroglu, Susan Bane, Christopher Bishop, David Campbell, Elizabeth Casteen, Nikolay Dimitrov, Guy German, Kimberly Jaussi, Sha Jin, Alistair Lees, Luiza Moreira, Andreas Pape, Sabina Perrino, Gail Rattinger, Nicole Rouhana, Nadia Rubaii, Kent Schull, Timothy Singler, Douglas Summerville, Nathan Tumey, Leo Wilton, Kaiming Ye

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Mary Beth Curtin, Nasrin Fatima, Curtis Kendrick, Gretchen Mahler, Erin Neske, Sara Reiter

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Provost Nieman called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**II. MINUTES**

The minutes from the October 26, 2020 meeting are pending.

**III. Report from Committees**

**Academic Standards Committee** – Associate Dean, Gretchen Mahler, reported that this Committee met on November 9, 2020.

The committee reviewed the Graduate School bylaws. Sara Reiter shared guidelines from SUNY and the committee reviewed the current bylaws to make sure that we met all of SUNY's suggestions. This includes actions by executive committees between regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings when necessary, remote governance body meetings, mechanisms for voting, and clearly defined terms of office for elective governance leaders.

At the October Graduate Council meeting, we made some additions to the bylaws regarding membership. The Academic Standards Committee came to the determination that all of the suggestions that were in SUNY's document are already covered in the bylaws. There are mechanisms for special meetings and the voting that we do is already via email and online. Overall, the committee felt that all of the other requests were already met in the bylaws. The committee did not make any changes to the document.

There was discussion on one other item, but the Academic Standards Committee needed some clarification. It has been tabled and will come back to the committee. Once that has been finalized it will come back to the Graduate Council for a vote.

**Curriculum Committee** – Associate Dean, Gretchen Mahler, reported that this Committee met on November 16, 2020.

## **Permanent Course Proposals**

**ECON 510** - this is a permanent course proposal from Economics. It is environmental econ and sustainability for credits and normal grading in the curriculum committee. This was a previously run course as experimental 510 x. The committee felt that all points were addressed, it is a good solid proposal, and recommended it for approval. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

**NURS 571** - this is a course that was designed by the nursing school to familiarize nursing students with telehealth and telehealth technologies. All of the points were evaluated by the curriculum committee and everything was addressed. There were no questions or concerns and the committee recommended it for approval. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

**Harper Graduate Language Courses** – there are two documents that are related to this proposal. The first is GCC proposal for graduate language training and the second is Arabic five. This proposal is set for a graduate 500-level course that corresponds with undergraduate language courses.

The department shared the background for this course. Kent stated this is a perennial problem for a lot of department's graduate programs, particularly in the humanities, but also could be across the campus. It's related to getting graduate students access to language training because graduate students don't come in fully versed in all the languages and there isn't a clear way for them to be able to take these courses that would count toward their degree at a graduate level. The Harper dean's office and the foreign language teaching departments worked out this proposal, based on what SUNY Buffalo does, to allow graduate students access to language courses. Graduate students would do the same amount of work as the undergraduates, but only get one graduate credit. In general, every elementary, intermediate, and advanced language course would have its own graduate level course attached to it. They'd meet simultaneously with the undergraduate courses and have access to the language training. They would either take it for a credit letter grade or pass fail; but in either case, they have to get at least a B or higher.

Nadia shared the curriculum committee supports this in principle and wants to figure out a way to make this work. They do want the Graduate Council's thoughts on the credit hour issue. The faculty member will have as much grading for a student who's enrolled for one-graduate credit as they would have for undergraduate students enrolled for four credits. There is also the issue of tuition dollars and the amount of work that the student would be putting into a four-credit undergraduate class.

The committee raised the following concerns: effect on international students, self-paying versus funded, students that might think they could take two or three language courses in one semester, NYS rules about contact hours relative to credit, rules against cross listing between 100 or 200 level undergraduate courses and graduate courses, and is there anything that could be adjusted in the regulations that allows students to have a certain number of undergraduate credits count toward their graduate credits and read so that they would take them actually at the undergrad level as long as there's some cap on percentage.

The committee noted how important the instructor's permission is. The committee suggested a pilot program. The department requested at least two semesters because many of these courses are only taught in the fall or the spring semester.

Amendment made to the original proposal to be a one-credit course to be offered as an experimental pilot program in calendar year 2020-2021. Luiza moved and Les seconded. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the amended proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

## **Program Revision**

**ISE Engineering Management Track** - this is an addition to the Masters of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering and also to the combined BS and MS and IOC. This is a different way to offer this degree to students. The department has decided to add an engineering management track to the Master of Science and Industrial and Systems Engineering. This is the current registered program and the proposed management track which will heavily be from the SSI department. It would be a 30-credit degree. This would be the project option still with 30 credits, but with a slightly different number of courses. There is also a coursework only option where the students do a culminating project and a 600-level course as opposed to doing an individual project.

Tim asked if this would preclude other departments from offering management tracks in Watson. Gretchen stated you could still have a management track in Mechanical Engineering, for example, but they would have to differentiate for the students. Kim suggested making a change to the language by AMS. It should be more inclusive and include nonbinary. Donald suggested a friendly amendment. Following those modifications, explanations and friendly amendment, the Council voted and approved the amended proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

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

**Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee** – Associate Dean, Gretchen Mahler, reported that this Committee met on November 9, 2020.

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

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Middle States Follow-up – Provost Nieman shared the Middle States reviewers report. We had no findings but did receive collegial advice on two things. This advice we don't have to do, but we should consider. One was the amount of time it takes for us to get new degrees to market and the second is the role of the Graduate Council. The reviewers had a hard time understanding why the council was so large, what it does, and why wasn't it more involved in graduate student professional development.

Don shared he has been in discussion, for a while, with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee about creating a joint faculty senate provost taskforce. The taskforce would be charged to look at the process we have for approving new graduate programs and graduate curriculum. The committee would also be charged to look at membership composition and responsibilities of the Graduate Council. One discussion that has come up is should there be a role for graduate directors on the Graduate Council. I don't think the suggestion is that the body be exclusively graduate directors, but I think part of the conversation has been should there be a portion of the Graduate Council that is reserved for graduate directors. Sara Reiter and Don will co-chair the committee, two members will be appointed by faculty senate executive committee, and the Graduate Council will appoint two members. Les asked about how to deal with joint programs that go across many disciplines. Don agreed this has been an issue. This could be something that we add to the to the charts.

Don would like to have this completed by the first of April. Vicki will get a call out for Volunteers and nominations to be submitted next week and then have the Graduate Council vote on them.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

---

Minutes recorded by Vicki Griffin,  
Senior Assistant to the Executive Vice President of Academic  
Affairs, Provost, and Interim Dean of the Graduate School