

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE October 17, 2016 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

- PLACE:** Couper Administration Building - Room148
- PRESIDING:** Susan Strehle, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
- MEMBERS:** Elizabeth Anderson (for Adam Laats), Subimal Chatterjee, Anne Clark, Heather DeHaan, Shelley Dionne, Mohammad Khasawneh, Michael Lewis, Patrick Madden, Elizabeth Mellin, Pamela Mischen, Sara Reiter, Pam Sandoval, Gale Spencer
- GSO:** Abdulrahman Alwuhayb, Kendall Geed, Plash Sachdeva,
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Mary Beth Curtin, Sarah Lam
- EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Jenn Dum, Ross Geohegan for Fernando Guzman, Kevin Hatch, Curtis Kendrick, Ricardo Laremont, Alistair Lees, Rosmarie Morewedge, Paul Parker, Tim Perry, Vicky Rizzo, Daryl Santos, Libby Tucker, Leigh Ann Wheeler

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Susan Strehle called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the September 19, 2016 Graduate Council meeting were approved as written.

III. COMMITTEES

Academic Standards Committee This committee met on September 26, 2016. In this meeting, there was a discussion regarding academic standards, with the focus on one campus doctoral program. Concerns were raised regarding the quality of the program, including advising, course availability, and faculty availability; in essence, it appears that PhD degrees are being recommended without regard to the fulfillment of requirements in the Bulletin. Discussions with the program and the dean are underway. Another item for discussion was the role of visiting faculty in directing master's thesis and doctoral dissertations. The current on-line policy indicates that dissertation committee chairs and master's thesis chairs must be tenured or tenure track members of the faculty, which excludes faculty with visitor's status as well as adjuncts. The committee recommended no change to the policy, and requests to add visiting or adjunct faculty will continue to be handled as exceptions on a case by case basis. The final item for discussion was whether two or more doctoral students could work on a dissertation collaboratively. The committee recommended that students can work on the same problem, but need to research and write up the dissertation on their own.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research This committee met on October 3, 2016 with no new business being discussed but the committee's work outlined and new members introduced. Mary Beth reminded everyone that the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities is due with a deadline of November 30. As well, a call for proposals for a new Organized Research Center is out with a deadline of March 1, 2017.

Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee This committee has not met.

Clark Advisory Committee This committee has not met.

Curriculum Committee This committee met on October 10, 2016. Permanent course proposals were reviewed for: ENVI 581 – Plant Ecology; NURS 568 – Human Nutrition and Metabolism, and EECE 621 – Signal Transforms. All permanent course proposals were approved.

The next items for discussion were registered program changes for Literacy Education B-6, Literacy Education 5-12 and Literacy B-12, new program from existing program. The School of Education is moving all of its programs from 4 to 3 credits. Therefore, Literacy B-6 and 5-12 move 9 courses at 4 credits to 10 3 credit courses; because NYS requires a 30 credit minimum for a master's degree, one course is being added. This is part of a school-wide change to move to 3 credits. The third, new program proposal takes two degree programs that currently exist and combines them into a new program that allows educators to study literacy from birth through grade 12. It draws on existing faculty and courses, and extends the existing program to B-12. Approval was motioned by Heather DeHaan and seconded by Gale Spencer. The programs were unanimously approved.

The final item up for discussion is the International Program Proposal to offer Binghamton degrees through SUNY Korea. SUNY Korea is the first American university consortium in Korea; it also offers Stony Brook degrees. The department of SSIE proposes to offer master's and PhD programs in Industrial and Systems Engineering, which Stony Brook doesn't offer. The proposal gives Binghamton's faculty the opportunity to offer our own current ISE programs at the SUNY Korea site. Approval was motioned by Patrick Madden and seconded by Heather DeHaan. The program was unanimously approved.

Strategic Planning Committee This committee has not met.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

We have developed a proposal to add a Master's in Public Health on campus. Two outside examiners were on campus to explore the plan in October. They have approved the proposal and made a few recommendations for improvement; we will update the proposal based on their suggestions. The proposal will be coming to the council at the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. after a motion by Gale Spencer, seconded by Pam Mischen.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Spencer,
Secretary to the Vice Provost and Dean
of the Graduate School