

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2018 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

PLACE: Couper Administration Building – Room 148

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

MEMBERS: Christopher Bishop, Peter Borgesen, David Campbell, George Catalano, Chang Liu (GSO), Paul Chiarot, Nikolay Dimitrov, Yetrib Hathout, Kimberly Jaussi, Matthew Johnson, Adam Laats, Lucky Mason-Williams, Tarun Mastana (GSO), Weiyi Meng, Andreas Pape, Xingye Qiao, Gale Spencer, Douglas Summerville, Nathan Turney, Nancy Um, Leigh Ann Wheeler,

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Gretchen Mahler, Sara Reiter

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Manoj Agarwal, Mary Beth Curtin, Robert Guay, Curtis Kendrick, Pamela Smart

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Tarhule called meeting to order 3:02 pm

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the September 24 2018 meeting approved as written.

III. Report from Committees

Curriculum Committee – Gretchen Mahler presented the report of the curriculum committee's recommendations. The committee reviewed seven (7) permanent course proposals. CS 544 – Programming for the Web; CS 559 – Science of Cyber Security; ME 536 – Fundamentals of Additive Manufacturing Technologies; MC 563 – Thin Film and Coating Technologies; CS 541 – Game Development for Mobile Platforms; CS 547 – High Performance Computing. These six (6) permanent course proposals were approved by Curriculum and Graduate Council and will be created.

ANTH 594 – Teaching Laboratory Anthropology. This unique new course will provide a mechanism for students to gain laboratory teaching experience. It is currently requested as a variable credit course of between 1 to 4-credits. The Council expressed some concern about the number of credits and the student's time commitment in the lab. It was suggested that this should be consistent with SUNY requirements. There were also questions about the philosophy and logistics of a variable credit course. Other requested changes included [.....]. The department will be notified by Associated Dean Mahler with the requested changes. The course can be presented to Council after changes have been made.

This committee reviewed a Program Revision Proposal for the Master of Arts in English. The program was last registered in the 1980's. The Curriculum committee requested updates to the course syllabi to include learning objectives and to ensure that all syllabi are in alignment with SUNY requirements. Gretchen reported that the requested revisions were made and resubmitted after the curriculum committee meeting. The Council approved a the proposal. It will be submitted to the next review stage, the EPPC.

The committee reviewed four (4) New Accelerated degree Program Proposals. The first was Philosophy, Political and Law & Sustainable Communities. The Council requested that Table 1 should be updated. The Department will make this change. The Council approved the proposal subject to the the table being updated.

The second was Environmental Studies and Sustainable Communities accelerated program. The undergraduate program is being revised, but the committee did not feel that would affect the graduate portion being approved. Motion was made to approve and will move onto next steps i.e. EPPC.

The third was English Accelerated M.A. New 4+1 MA program. The Department of English seeks to create this accelerated degree program to attract more undergrad students and to appeal students in creative writing. The Council approved the proposal which will now be submitted to EPPC.

The fourth was Geological Sciences Combined B.S. and M.S. accelerated program. This is a one (1) track in program. Only thesis, no project. Motion was made to approve and will move onto next steps.

Academic Standards Committee – Gretchen Mahler presented the report of this committee, which met on Oct 15. The committee reviewed a proposed Policy for Accelerated Student deferrals. The policy review was requested by the Graduate School. The current practice is that students who apply for a master's degree can defer their admission for up to one year without loss of status or the requirement to pay continuous registration. However, Binghamton students in the accelerated degree tracts who wish to defer their admissions are required to pay for continued registration to remain in status. The Committee recommends a change to this policy. The new policy states that [state it here...]. Following discussions, the Council would like the policy revisited and rewritten before approving. The proposal will go back to this committee for rework.

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

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

Clark Advisory Committee – This committee has not met.

Strategic Planning Committee – This committee has not met.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

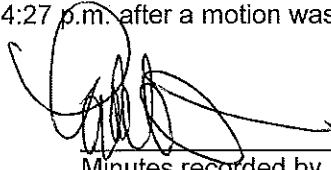
School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Academic Leave of Absence. This is a policy that was brought to Council last academic year, namely, pharmacy students who need to remediate more than two courses are placed on a 5-year plan and required to take a leave of absence of one semester. At the first presentation, the Council expressed concern about the fate of international students with respect to their visa status if they were forced to take a one semester leave of absence. Coulter Ward from Pharmacy reported that the SoPPs had followed up on the matter with ISSS, which assured that the visa status of international students affected by the policy would not jeopardized. Following this clarification and assurance, the new policy was approved.

Dean Tarhule reported that the Faculty Senate and Provost had constituted a university wide joint task force on graduate education and scholarship. The task force comprises 16 members across the university. Its charges are to recommend long term strategies for increasing graduate student enrollment and diversifying the study body, find innovative ways to introduce online education, certificate courses and badges, and identify the criteria for Binghamton University to become a nationally ranked premier public university for PhD education. Sara Reiter and Dean Tarhule will co-chair the task force.

Professor Kim Jaussi raised a question about whether Binghamton University should consider admitting undergraduate students directly into the accelerated masters tracks. After discussion, the Council felt that more information and discussion were needed.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m. after a motion was made by Kimberly Jaussi and seconded by Adam Laats.



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

