

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

THE GRADUATE COUNCIL- MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 29, 2021

3:30pm – 5:00pm

- PLACE:** Zoom
- PRESIDING:** Donald G. Nieman, Provost & Interim Dean of the Graduate School
- MEMBERS:** Manoj Agarwal, Christopher Bishop, David Campbell, Elizabeth Casteen, Nikolay Dimitrov, James Galbraith (rep. Libraries), Guy German, Michael Jacobson, Kimberly Jaussi, Sha Jin, Leslie Lander; Alistair Lees, Loretta Mason-Williams, Luiza Moreira, Andreas Pape, Sabina Perrino, Gail Rattinger, Nicole Rouhana, Nadia Rubaii, Kent Schull, Douglas Summerville, Leo Wilton, Kaiming Ye
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Nasrin Fatima, Gretchen Mahler, Sara Reiter,
- EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Seden Akcinaroglu, Susan Bane, Mary Beth Curtin, Sha Jin, Vrushab Sakpal (rep. GSO President), Ellen Tilden, Lawrence Tumey

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Provost Nieman called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

II. Minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting

The minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

III. Committees

Academic Standards Committee – This committee met on March 15, 2021. Gretchen Mahler noted the committee discussed the double-counting policy for 4 + 1 degrees. Currently, there is no double-counting policy, but she noted there is a policy on the number of courses that need to be taken at the graduate level which is 18 credits. The goal is to bring this policy to the graduate council for discussion then bring it forth to the departments to see how this may affect their degree programs. Gretchen Mahler provided a brief review of the policy and was present to answer questions. The policy will be voted on next month.

Curriculum Committee – This committee met on March 22, 2021. Gretchen Mahler presented the following:

Permanent course proposals:

1. THEA 590 – This is a course proposal from Theater for a pro-seminar in graduate studies, and a 2 credit course. This course will provide an introduction to graduate students in the Theater program. This course will be offered in the spring, in-person for 1 ½ hour per week with additional assignments outside. Enrollment is anticipated to about 6. The committee asked for revisions to the diversity statement which has been addressed and advised. Gretchen Mahler was present to answer questions. THEA 590 was approved as a permanent course.

Program Revisions:

1. Complex Systems Science and Engineering Advanced Certificate- This is an 11 credit graduate advanced certificate. The department is proposing to add several elective courses. Students will need to take electives from group A (courses with theoretical foundation emphasis) and group B (courses with an emphasis on applications). Gretchen Mahler reviewed the course they would like to add and the rationale of the changes. Gretchen Mahler was present to answer questions. The complex systems advanced certificate proposal was approved.

Discontinuances:

The proposal is to request for discontinuance of both Family Clinical Nurse Specialist (DNP) and Community Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (DNP) degrees. Both degrees were revised in 2010 and have not been updated since then. These degrees need to be discontinued because any students that graduate from these programs would not be eligible for advanced practice licensure. Gretchen Mahler and Nicole Rouhana were present to answer questions. The request for discontinuance of both degrees was approved.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research – This committee met on March 23, 2021. Michael Jacobson from the committee provided an update. He noted the committee reviewed the proposals for interdisciplinary collaborative rights and started to conduct their annual review of the centers and institutes.

Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee – This committee met on January 8, 2021. Determinations were made for the excellence awards. The virtual award ceremony was held last week.

Clark Advisory Committee – This committee met on March 11, 2021. Gretchen Mahler provided a brief review noting the committee reviewed the most recent nominations and made 18 offers. There are 7 that have been accepted, 2 that have been declined, and several that are still pending. The committee plans to fill 13 positions this year.

IV. New Business

Provost Nieman presented the proposed draft revision of the Graduate School Bylaws. He provided an overview and brief description of changes that have been made. He noted changes made to the circular approval process, the process for approving courses, new degree proposals, and degree revisions taking those responsibilities away from the graduate council and anchor them in the school and then to the faculty senate to process. Additional items discussed include:

- Members elected to be on the graduate council with a portion from the colleges and schools that recognize both the number of faculty but also some graduate students and then the diversity of graduate programs.
- Development of several new committees that allow the graduate council to be more involved in important substantive issues affecting graduate education.
- The Professional Development Committee would be responsible for advising the graduate Dean on the awarding of Clark fellowships and would look at approaches that we can take to be more successful in a global sense in recruiting and retaining and promoting the success of graduate students from diverse backgrounds.
- Authorize virtual meetings since we have had much better attendance with the graduate council.
- The option, under certain circumstances of electronic voting.
- Require each college and school to create a body to review curricular matters.

After further discussion, the committee agreed to take the revisions to Faculty Senate executive committee, then to Faculty Senate.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kellie Hovancik,
Administrative Assistant to the Dean of The Graduate School