BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Graduate School

PO Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-2077
www.binghamton.edu/grad-school
graduate@binghamton.edu

Graduate Council Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2026 ~ 3:00 – 4:00 pm
Couper Administration Building, AD-148

MINUTES

PRESIDING: Terrence Deak, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

STAFF: Joshua Reno, Courtney Ignarri, Mohamadreza Babaee, Kim Yousey-Elsener, Yongabi Ngoh, Ann Marie Kellogg (recorder)

PRESENT: Jobial Alex, David Bisaha, Heather Bragg, Kathleen Brunt, Tony Davis, Joshua Felver, Nicole Fenty, Guy German, Debjit Gupta, Yetrib Hathout, Michael Jacobson, Yvonne Johnston, Carmen Jones, Jesse Koennecke, Yu David Liu, Matthew McConn, Jeffrey Pietras, Dmitry Ponomarev, Aravind Prakash, Nicole Rouhana, Pamela Smart, Matthew Townsend, Katherine Wander, Sara Wozniak

ABSENT: Barima Akwasi Amankwaah, Heidi Ewen, Sarah Gerk, Carl Lipo, Sarah Lynch, Elizabeth Mellin, Andreas Pape, Kirsten Prior, Joseph Roth, Sneha Thondangi, Shahrzad Towfighian, Cihan Uzmanoglu, Ning Zhou

Call to Order:

Dean Deak called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting on April 7, 2026

Dr. Reno asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 7, 2026. A member made a motion to approve the minutes, and another member seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. The minutes of the meeting were approved as written.

2. Report from the Dean:

Dean Deak welcomed new council members and welcomed back returning members and thanked them for their service and commitment.

a. Two new additions to Graduate School staff

The Graduate School will be welcoming two new staff members on October 8. Angela LaRosa, who is currently a Harpur Economics Academic Advising Coordinator, will be a Student Services Specialist as part of the Student Services team. She will report to Mohamadreza Babaee. Angela is filling the position previously held by Elise Thornley, who returned to the Libraries.

The Graduate School

PO Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-2077
www.binghamton.edu/grad-school
graduate@binghamton.edu

Katherine (Kate) Flynn, is currently employed at Massachusetts Bay Community College. She will fill a newly created Academic Operations Coordinator position. She will report to Courtney Ignarri. This position will be responsible for systematic review of the academic guide that is coded into DegreeWorks, among other duties to be assigned.

b. Welcome Event

The New Graduate Student Welcome Event was held on August 25 in the Mandela Room. Previously the Graduate School held a half-day orientation that included compliance sessions and panel discussion. This was replaced with online modules on Brightspace that students complete at their own pace. This is the second year a welcome event was held. This year's event featured tabling by 30+ campus partners who provided information about resources available to support our graduate students. It also offered new students an opportunity to network with each other. The event was well attended, with over 140 students participating.

c. Report on 26-27 entering graduate class

The cost of graduate education is high. The Graduate School is investing a lot in stipends and transition awards to assist with these high costs. We are strategic about how resources are allocated by targeting areas of greatest need (new student transition, support in the pipeline of students where we have greatest attrition, etc).

d. Doctoral Transition Award

This year the Graduate School rolled out the Doctoral Transition Award. This award is for all incoming PhD students enrolled in a research-based doctoral program who have been awarded a doctoral assistantship (including SUNY-funded GA/TA positions or Research Project Assistantships through the Research Foundation). This one-time $750 award is intended to bridge the gap between arrival and the first paycheck, allowing focus on research from the moment of arrival. This program was well received and may increase retention rates.

e. Stipend increase

The institutional base stipend for doctoral students supported on GA/TA/RPA positions increased to $25,000 for the AY beginning in January 2026. Beginning in the Fall of 2027, this institutional base stipend will increase to $27,500. For more information, please visit our Stipend Policy page.

f. New guidance forthcoming on professional standards and misconduct

The graduate school is developing a policy around professional standards that prepare students to be successful in the workforce that is common to all doctoral students and uniform across campus. The goal is to avoid every program having to develop individual standards. More information will be shared as the process moves forward.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Graduate School

PO Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-2077
www.binghamton.edu/grad-school
graduate@binghamton.edu

g. Bringing back the Provost's Doctoral Summer Fellowship (PDSF)

Many institutions are moving toward a goal of providing 12-months funding by adding provisions for summer funding. The PDSF was paused in AY 25-26 while we evaluated its effectiveness. Data indicated that the PDSF reduced the attrition rate by about 50 percent, and serves as a good model for adding summer funding more broadly for doctoral students. The PDSF is being reactivated for AY26-27 with some slight modifications. We will offer approximately 50 new lines per year for 250 incoming students at $6,000 per student per summer (an increase of $1,000). Existing PDSF awardees will also receive this increase. More details are forthcoming.

h. New dashboards

The dashboards have been updated and are available on the Graduate School Website. The dashboard currently includes admissions, program milestones and career outcomes for research doctorate students (Phd and EDD). We will add clinical doctorate and Master's degree dashboards this academic year. The Association of American Universities (AAU) sets the standard for reporting under the AAU Ph.D. Program Data Transparency Initiative. Under this standard, member universities commit to providing uniform, easily accessible public data about their doctoral programs.

i. Update on guidance Re: online education

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

j. Middle States resources

Every department should be using the feedback they received on the WEAVE assessment reports to improve how they measure student learning. Understanding what students are learning during their degree program is becoming increasingly important in the age of AI. The Graduate School created a toolkit to provide programs with resources on direct measures of student learning related to dissertations, proposals, capstones, and other projects.

3. Subcommittee Assignments and Obligation

a. Academic Standards Committee – meets as needed
b. Diversity Committee – November, February reviews (Clark Fellowships)
c. Professional Development Committee – November, March reviews (Excellence awards, Distinguished Dissertations, Mentorship)
d. Budget Advisory Committee – November, April, July reviews (Travel grants)
e. Grievance Committee – meets as needed
f. Strategic Planning Committee – meets as needed

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Graduate School

PO Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-2077
www.binghamton.edu/grad-school
graduate@binghamton.edu

Sub-Committee assignments for this academic year are as follows:

Academic Standards Committee	Diversity Committee
Joshua Reno - Graduate School	Joshua Reno - Graduate School
Courtney Ignarri - Graduate School	Mohamadreza Babaee - Graduate School
Guy German - Watson	Yongabi Ngoh - Graduate School
Yetrib Hathout - SoPPS	Carmen Jones - Ex Officio, DEI (Designee)
Heidi Ewen - DCNHS	Karen Jones - Ex Officio, DEI
	Cihan Uzmanoglu - SOM
	Ning Zhou - Watson
	Andreas Pape - Harpur
Budget Committee	**Professional Development Committee**
Joshua Reno - Graduate School	Joshua Reno - Graduate School
Yongabi Ngoh - Graduate School	Erica Sausner - Graduate School
Jeffrey Pietras - Harpur	Aravind Prakash - Watson
Yu David Liu - Watson	David Bisaha - Harpur
Yvonne Johnston - DCNHS	Kirsten Prior - Harpur
	Nicole Rouhana - DCNHS
	Nicole Fenty - CCPA
	Sneha Thondangi - GSO
Grievance Committee	**Strategic Planning Committee**
Joshua Reno - Graduate School	Joshua Reno - Graduate School
Kim Yousey-Elsener - Graduate School	Shahrzad (Sherry) Towfighian - Watson
Tony Davis - SoPPS	Joshua Felver - CCPA
Debjit Gupta - SOM	Katherine Wander - Harpur
Elizabeth Mellin - CCPA	Barima Akwasi Amankwaah - GSO
Matthew Townsend - GSO	
Jobial Alex - GSO	

4. **Graduate Council Elections**

   There is a vacancy for a Graduate Director Representative in Harpur Fine Arts and Humanities. It is very important that this vacancy be filled so representation in that area is included in Graduate Council.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Graduate School

PO Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-2077
www.binghamton.edu/grad-school
graduate@binghamton.edu

Welcome to our new members for academic years 2026-2028:

a. New Graduate Director Representatives (graduate director caucus):

b. New Faculty Representatives (Tenured/Tenure-Track ballot vote):

5. **Upcoming Deadlines**
   - **a.** Postdoc Appreciation week – events on September 22 and 24
   - **b.** Travel Awards – November 1

6. **Any Other Business:**

	Graduate School Newsletter	**News and Notes**	**Dean's Messages**
Timing	Every other Wednesday	Every other Wednesday, alternating with the Newsletter	As necessary
Audience	Students, postdocs, faculty, and staff	Graduate Directors and Chairs	Graduate Directors and Chairs
Purpose	General updates and community news	Targeted internal notes	High-priority communiques from Dean

The Graduate School Newsletter and News and Notes will be sent via B-Engaged. If you unsubscribe, you will not receive any communications.

There being no further business, Dr. Reno asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A member made a motion to adjourn and another member seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

*****Next Meeting: October 5, 2026 ~ 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.*****
Couper Administration Building, AD-148