

# BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

## MINUTES OF THE March 20, 2017 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

**PLACE:** Couper Administration Building – Room 148

**PRESIDING:** Susan Strehle, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

**MEMBERS:** Elizabeth Anderson (for Adam Laats), Shelley Dionne, Fernando Guzman, Mohammad Khasawneh, Alistair Lees, Michael Lewis, Patrick Madden, Sara Reiter, Pam Sandoval, Daryl Santos, Steven Tammariello, Libby Tucker, Leigh Ann Wheeler

**GSO:** Abdulrahman Alwuhayb, Jenn Dum, Kendall Geed, Plash Sachdeva,

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Sarah Lam

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Subimal Chatterjee, Anne Clark, Mary Beth Curtin, Heather DeHaan, Kevin Hatch, Curtis Kendrick, Ricardo Laremont, Elizabeth Mellin, Pamela Mischen, Rosmarie Morewedge, Tim Perry, Vicky Rizzo, Gale Spencer

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Susan Strehle called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

### II. MINUTES

The minutes from the January 30, 2017 were approved as written.

### III. COMMITTEES

**Academic Standards Committee** This committee met on February 6, 2017 to discuss two separate issues. The first was regarding advancing students to candidacy where it appeared at the final point as though the student did not have very much course work. The Academic Standards Committee raised questions about how these students were given IS with faculty members, constituting work on the faculty member's research program as opposed to a broader introduction in the field that would broaden the student's education better. The AS committee met with certain departments where this concern is more prevalent and it will be brought up in a broader retreat to be held later this summer.

The second item before the AS committee regarded graduate students learning foreign languages. This concern leads to a larger meeting with departments who are language users. Students are required to learn certain languages before they can do the research in that field. On the other side of this would be the language departments including Turkish, Russian and some of the Asian languages. The committee is in the process of calling together a meeting to discuss language study.

**Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research** This committee met on March 9, 2017. Updates will be provided at the next graduate council meeting.

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

**Clark Advisory Committee** This committee met on February 8 and March 8, 2017. The committee met to discuss and approve the new funding model regarding the cost sharing program. In the past we have been able to fund anywhere from 52 to 54 Clark students. With the new doctoral stipend level that started last fall, the number of Clark lines will gradually decrease if changes were not made. With the changes to the funding model, we are now able to fund up to 25 new Clarks for the next academic year. The committee reviewed all of the nominations and 18 offers have been made, with the deadline being April 15 for them to accept. We expect to have 8 more to offer with solicitations going out last week. The committee will meet the first week of April to discuss their next rounds of recommendations.

**Curriculum Committee** This committee met on March 13, 2017. The first items discussed were permanent course proposals. The first one was for ANTH 572V – Virtual Anthropology. The second was for ECON 634 – Advanced Macroeconomics. The third was for EECE 605 – Interfacing Engineering and Biology at Nanoscale. The fourth was for GEOG 534 – Qualitative Methods. The fifth and final was for ME 641 – Mesoscale Modeling of Complex Fluids. No questions were raised regarding any of these courses and they were unanimously approved.

The final item discussed was the request to revise the MPA Culminating Experience. Discussions ensued regarding the changes requested in this request and it was determined that there is more information required in order to move forward with this request.

**Strategic Planning Committee** This committee has not met.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Susan discussed the fact that enrollments are a concern and applications are down. The main concern is that the campus has agreed not to expand undergraduate enrollment which makes sense due to resources. At the same time, graduate enrollments are a critical part of the enrollment. We found that WebEx meetings with prospective meetings on Slate has been easy and very effective. The history department recently did one of these sessions and highly recommends using this feature.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m. after a motion by Fernando Guzman, seconded by Libby Tucker.

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