

**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY**

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2020 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**3:30pm – 5:00pm**

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**PLACE:** Zoom

**PRESIDING:** Donald G. Nieman, Provost & Interim Dean of the Graduate School

**MEMBERS:** Manoj Agarwal, Seden Akcinaroglu, Susan Bane, Christopher Bishop, David Campbell, Elizabeth Casteen, Nikolay Dimitrov, Guy German, Kimberly Jaussi, Sha Jin, Alistair Lees, Luiza Moreira, Andreas Pape, Sabina Perrino, Gail Rattinger, Nicole Rouhana, Nadia Rubaii, Kent Schull, Timothy Singler, Douglas Summerville, Nathan Tumey, Leo Wilton, Kaiming Ye

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Mary Beth Curtin, Nasrin Fatima, Curtis Kendrick, Gretchen Mahler, Erin Neske, Sara Reiter

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Provost Nieman called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**II. MINUTES**

The minutes from the September 28, 2020 meeting were approved as written

**III. Report from Committees**

Academic Standards Committee – Associate Dean, Gretchen Mahler, reported that this Committee met on October 5, 2020.

The committee received a request from Decker College to increase their representation on Graduate Council. The committee reviewed the bylaws and made the following edits in red:

Article I: Functions

Title A. General

The mission of the Graduate School is service to the community, region, state, nation, and world through the advancement of knowledge and its applications, and through the **education and development of graduate students**.

Title B. Specific

1. Through the graduate faculty and its legislative body, the Graduate Council, the Graduate School establishes policies and procedures for the conduct of graduate education and **oversight of** research programs offered by the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Article III: Organization and Procedures

Title B. The Graduate Council

2. The Graduate Council shall consist of 30 members (exclusive of ex officio members). This includes **26** members

Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences: **2**

This distribution should be reviewed periodically to assure fair distribution of representation. **At any time a college or school may request a review of the Graduate Council membership distribution by contacting the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School.**

From the annual election, the remaining **two** graduate faculty members of the Graduate Council shall be at-large members

**7. Membership on Standing Committees:**

The committee made a friendly amendment to the mission statement to include the word “globe”.

Gretchen will be sending comments back to academic standards committee to look at SUNY’s and this committees’ recommendations and to resubmit to graduate council’s for review in November.

Curriculum Committee – the Committee reviewed six course proposals.

**BME 584** - this is a course that focuses on how artificial intelligence can be used in biomedical engineering applications prerequisites. This will be an elective course for biomedical students and is necessary for understanding how AI can be used to solve medical problems, address diversity and that algorithms can enforce potential biases. There is no additional budget anticipated. About 30 students per year are anticipated to enroll. It will be cross listed with BME. There were no changes that were requested by the curriculum committee and it was recommended. This was discussed in the Watson Graduate Studies Committee and they noted there will be guest lecturers' experts in AI, from other disciplines, presenting related work. This will give students a chance to see cross collaboration opportunities. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

**ECON 550 and 650** - this is a course in behavioral and experimental economics. It is an introduction to laboratory and field experiments for economists. The pre-requisites are Econ 506 11 or instructor approval. The course will introduce methodology of laboratory and field experiments and economics. It's going to explore several recent methodology methodological developments in economics as far as diversity and will include application of theories from behavioral economics and methods of lab and field experiments, which will further student's awareness and understanding. It will be a two-week or two lectures per week. There is no additional budget. The library anticipates that this will be an elective for both PhD and MA students in economics. Approximately 10 students are anticipated to enroll and maybe useful for students in finance, marketing, psychology and political science. It's a graduate only course and will not be cross listed as an undergraduate course. The committee did ask the department to improve the diversity statement and Gretchen feels they did improve it. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

**ECON 556** - this is an economics 556 advanced data analytics class that will focus on advanced data analysis, economics and several related fields. The pre-requisite is ECON 502. This class will be cross listed with ECON 456. It won't be open to students that have already taken ECON 456. The economics department is expanding its MA program and data analytics. The department will use recent developments in the fields of economics and statistics to teach this. The diversity is related to the class covering data analysis methods which have recently been used to study racial preferences in college admissions; so, understanding how these methods are used can help to prevent further inappropriate uses of these analysis techniques. There is no additional budget or library resources needed. The enrollment is anticipated at 12 to 30. The class may be useful for students outside of economics, for example, students in the data science fields.

The Graduate Council had two comments. First about collaborating or allowing cross listings for this course and the second was the need for a stronger diversity statement to include specific examples about assignments that might be given in class. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified and Gretchen will provide the council's feedback.

**History 502** - this is a course that applies GIS to research in the discipline of history and more widely, in the humanities and qualitative social sciences. It's a hands-on course where they use the software in the class to solve problems in the humanities using GIS. This was previously taught as a topics course and was in the top three in the last five years. Because it's been so successful it is being submitted for a permanent course proposal. The idea is this will serve as a core course in a new certificate program that's being planned in digital humanities, which is within the data science. The diversity is that it will be developing research tools that can be applied to a wide range of subjects that are related to cultural diversity. Because these tools are expensive, they've been used by corporate and state institutions to further, empower dominant stakeholders, and perpetuate inequalities. The course acknowledges those inequalities and will encourage students to confront these inequalities and use the tools to combat inequality. The course will have program instruction, computational exercises, and individual tutoring. There are no additional budgetary requirements because we have a campus wide license for the GIS suite. There are no new library resources that are needed. Enrollment will be capped at 10 because it is such a hands-on and time intensive teaching course. It's expected that this will be a highly interdisciplinary course with students from Art History, Anthropology, English, and Political Science. It will not be cross listed as an undergraduate course and it was approved by the

history department. The conversation around this proposal focused on the diversity statement which was improved based on the feedback from the Curriculum Committee and on the course numbering. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

**Nursing 608** - this is a course that's going to focus on understanding the ways that research is conducted and being able to critically analyze research findings and literature for nursing PhD students. This will be a required core course. This course was needed to set these methods apart from the doctorate of nursing practice of DMP students who have a different focus than the PhD students. It will address diversity and cultural competency and healthcare research, including things like sampling recruitment and retention from diverse populations. There is no additional budget or library requirement. Enrollment is anticipated to be about 15. This course has attracted students from CCPA, Engineering, BME, SSI, Anthropology, and some other social sciences. This course is not cross listed as an undergraduate course and it was approved. The curriculum committee asked for clarification to state this is a required course for the PhD students so that was added in.

The Graduate Council asked why it is called advanced research methods and design, but in the description, it says fundamental methodological and statistical skills needed by PhD students. Nicole Rouhana stated the instructors revised the course and it will only be taught to PhD students and it's going to be a higher-level analysis than what they do for the DMP students. A suggestion was made to replace the word fundamental within the description under Part I with the word advanced and then maybe put in parentheses (i.e. multilevel structural equation modeling). Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified and Nicole and Gretchen will provide the council's feedback.

**Nursing 609** - this is a course in the PhD program to differentiate the PhD students from the DMP students. It's one of the first courses that the PhD students take. It has previously been taught as an experimental course but is now being made permanent. It considers social and cultural differences and examines nursing theories that can focus on culture. There is no additional budget or library requirements. Enrollments are anticipated to be about 15. There are students from other disciplines such as CCPA, SSI, BME, Anthropology, and Philosophy that have taken this course and benefited. It is not cross listed as an undergraduate course and has been approved by the chair. Following those modifications and explanations, the Council voted and approved the proposal. No further approvals are necessary. The Department will be notified.

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.

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

**New Workflow Software** - Gretchen provided an update on a project that was started last year in the Graduate School to streamline the program and proposal submission process. Currently, whether you're submitting a permanent course proposal or four plus one proposal for every registration of your program there's a lot of emails back and forth which can be confusing about what stage your proposal is at with the committee. The new workflow process will allow you to see exactly what stage your proposal is at and you can get feedback from the committee through the software. One of the most important things with this new process, is that the revision process and the final proposal are all saved within the workflow so that you are accessing the right version. The curriculum committee has provided feedback that will be implemented.

When the Graduate School began working on this software they were looking at whether it should be combined with undergraduate, but decided to just have graduate. The Graduate School is hoping to start using this software in the spring. Gretchen asked Sara if she thought EPPC will have an issue with using the workflow software on one side, but not on the other, since they review both graduate and undergraduate. Sara did not. Les asked why it is not being considered for the undergraduate level to. Don stated we could have discussions to move to undergraduate.

**Mentoring Form Update** – Gretchen shared the academic standards committee spent a lot of time working on an Individual Development Plan (IDP). However, there have been some changes in the Graduate School that have delayed this moving forward. The biggest one is all of the degree completion is moving to Student Records. Student Records will be using degree works for the degree completion on the graduate side. The Graduate School is working on coding the master's programs into degree works. Once this has been completed, degree completion and then PhD programs are going to be the priority. Once the PhD programs have been put into degree works, IDP will be added. The estimated date for the work to start is spring of 2021.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

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Minutes recorded by Vicki Griffin,  
Senior Assistant to the Executive Vice President of Academic  
Affairs, Provost, and Interim Dean of the Graduate School