

Graduate Council Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025 ~ 3:30 – 4:30 pm

AD-148

MINUTES

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

STAFF: Andreas Pape, Courtney Ignarri, Ellen Tilden, and
Ann Marie Kellogg (recorder)

PRESENT: Sharon Bryant, Brad Cannon, Yetrib Hathout, Norah Henry, Michael Jacobson, Loretta Mason-Williams, Jacqueline McGinley, Josh Reno, Nicole Rouhana, Jillian Sandy, Hiroki Sayama, Steven Schwartz, David Werner, Tao Zhang

ABSENT: Alex Jobial, Pegor Aynajian, Niyazi Bodur, Brad Cannon, Sungdai Cho, Judith Deluca, Pamela Stewart Fahs, Praseeda Gopinath, Yvonne Johnston, Kyoung-Don Kang, Carl Lipo, Matt McConn, Suzanne McLeod, Anjani Praneet Meruvu, Vladimir Nikulin, Nicole Sirju-Johnson, Sarah Wexler, Yakubu Alhassan Zakaria,

Call to Order:

Dr. Pape called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting on February 3, 2025

Dr. Pape asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 3. A member made a motion and another member seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. The minutes of the meeting were approved as written.

2. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Standards Committee – met on February 10, 2025
 - The Academic Standards Committee met and discussed the Graduate Council Bylaws and subcommittees' organizational structure and will recommend minimal changes.
- b. Budget/Grievance Committee – did not meet
- c. Diversity Committee – met on February 24, 2025
 - The Diversity Committee met and made recommendations for Clark Fellowships. The Graduate School is taking a more aggressive approach to funding Clark Fellowship based on historical yield rates. Twenty-one offers have been made, and we are hopeful most will accept.
- d. Professional Development Committee – met on February 19, 2025

- The Professional Development Committee met and finalized a job description for the newly created Graduate Assistant Writing Support Specialist. This position will focus on assisting doctoral students with writing their dissertation, which will include offering workshops and meeting individually with students. This position is part of a broader plan that will help PhD students to devote time over the summer to their dissertation work, which will advance the graduate school's mission of reducing time to degree. The position has not yet been posted. Funding details are being worked on, which will include tuition and stipend

3. Report from the Dean

Dr. Pape announced that he will be returning to the faculty at the end of August. He will continue his duties as associate dean in the Graduate School through the end of summer. A search for Dr. Pape's replacement will begin soon to allow the newly hired dean to work with Dr. Pape so the transition is as smooth as possible. This position will be retitled Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

In addition to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Provost has approved a second associate dean position--Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives. Final approval needs to be obtained from SUNY central. This position will focus on a growth plan to increase doctoral enrollment and will involve writing training grants. State funding alone will not support these goals and external funding will be necessary in the form of grants.

SUNY mandates that associate deans be Management Confidential 12-month positions. The search for both of these positions will be limited to internal candidates only.

Dean Deak thanked Dr. Pape for his hard work and dedication to the Graduate School during his tenure as associate dean and praised him for the progress that was made under his leadership.

Dean Deak shared that due to recent NIH cuts, many universities have reduced PhD enrollment. Binghamton University is not cutting doctoral enrollment, and is encouraging programs to grow their programs if they have capacity..

Dean Deak announced that there are plans coming out of Watson for an internship program that Dean Kelkar wants to bring mainstream and use as a tool to attract international students. The way the program would work is the student would do an internship that spans the summer and fall semester of year 2 in their masters program. It will require us to certify their status so they are still full-time (1 credit hour of internship) and will be coded as GRD 794. GRD 794 is a course registration rubric that will pair exclusively with internship courses (594) for one semester. GRD 794 will allow for tracking of internships. GRD 794 will be available to all colleges, and the dean is in the process of verifying that it will work as a university-wide approach.

Dean Deak asked for a motion to tentatively approve moving forward with the GRD 794 internship mechanism. A member made a motion and another seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. The motion was approved.

Dean Deak discussed the plan going forward to address ABD students who are at or beyond five years. The students' names were separated and listed by school, which will be sent to the respective graduate directors. Currently, 18 percent of graduate students fall into this category. A letter will be sent by Dean Deak to those students who are at or beyond five years notifying them that they have until May 2026 to complete their dissertation, giving them a full year for completion. In the future, ABDs beyond five years will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.

Dean Deak addressed the Graduate School's policy regarding Outside Examiners on dissertation committees. He encourages that the Outside Examiner be from outside Binghamton University. In the past, we have allowed someone who was within Binghamton University but in another program. The benefits of the Outside Examiner being from an outside university as an opportunity to highlight the work of our students. In either case, the Outside Examiner must be a tenured professor who has experience with dissertation defenses and who has graduated their own students as quality control measures that have been coded in the Graduate School Manual for many years. The Academic Standards Committee was asked to review the policy for how Outside Examiners are approved to ensure it is clear, efficient, and accommodates late-breaking requests that often arise from students. The manual may need to be modified. This will be addressed at the next meeting of the Academic Standards Committee.

4. Clark Fellowship Update

This item was addressed in Dr. Pape's Diversity Committee report.

5. Graduate Council Committee Reorganization

This item was addressed in Dr. Pape's Academic Standards Committee report.

New Business:

None.

There being no further business, Dr. Pape asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A member made a motion and another member seconded the motion. All were in favor and none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

*****Next Meeting: Monday, April 7, 2025 ~ 3:30-4:30 p.m. ~ AD-148*****