

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE March 14, 2011 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

- PLACE:** Couper Administrative Building - Room148
- PRESIDING:** Nancy E. Stamp, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
- MEMBERS:** John Fillo (for Jacques Beaumont), Elizabeth Brown, Carmen Ferradas, Robert Guay, William Heller, Les Lander, Dina Maramba, Beverly Rainforth, Andrew Merriwether, Mary Muscari, Dawnie Steadman, Latoya Lee
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Stephen Gilje, Florence Margai,
- EXCUSED:** Wendy Martinek, Chuck Nelson
- ABSENT:** George Catalano, Junghyun Cho, Mark Fowler, Brandon Gibb, William Haver, Wayne Jones, Tongshu Ma, Pamela Mischen, Debi Mishra, Thomas O'Brien, Paul Parker, Max Pensky

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Provost and Dean Nancy Stamp called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 14, 2011 were approved.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Standards Committee

This committee has not met.

Advisory Committee on Scholarship and Research

The committee will be meeting to review the reports for the Organized Research Center and the Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research Grants.

Budget Advisory Committee

This committee has not met.

Clark Fellowship Advisory Committee

This committee met on February 28 to review the Clark Fellowship Applications and decided to award six Clark Fellowship Awards. They will be meeting again to determine the students for the remaining awards.

Curriculum Committee

This committee has not met.

Grievance Committee

This committee has not met.

Strategic Planning Committee

This committee has not met.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is a national organization made up of approximately 500 graduate schools. They meet twice a year and concentrate on doing research on graduate education in the US and internationally. They look at best practices and then report on what the trends are in graduate education. CGS is also very active in lobbying congress to get them to understand what is going on in graduate education globally. They are very concerned about the future of Graduate Education in the United States.

CGS created a video presentation to show the future of graduate education and ways to ensure that graduate education continues to flourish, especially during budget constraints. For example, programs could be looking at a way to better structure their curriculums to accommodate students so that a reasonable time to degree is reachable. Other suggestions were to offer courses during a time that is more convenient for students because many students have families and jobs. Keeping up with what is changing in the job market and where job trends are headed are also important to graduate education. CGS wants to ensure to government and industry that our students will complete their education and go on to be successful.

Dean Stamp showed a video created by The Educational Testing Service (ETS). ETS is a non-profit organization that does research on education. They have created a new kind of test that will supplement the GRE and TOFEL testing. This test is called Educational Testing Service Personal Potential Index (ETS-PPI). It was designed to help graduate programs evaluate applicants by looking at other characteristics not captured by the GRE test. ETS-PPI is a web-based evaluation tool that provides a more complete picture of the applicant's potential for success. The information that comes from this test is based on 6 critical personal attributes that graduate faculty and deans have told ETS they regard as important for success. Those 6 attributes are: Knowledge, creativity, communication skills, teamwork, resilience, planning and organization, and ethics and integrity.

Individuals registering for the GRE will be able to access the ETS PPI website and send up to four ETS PPI evaluation reports to designated institutions at no additional charge. Others will be able to use the service for a fee. Once logged on to the site, applicants designate up to five individuals to complete an ETS PPI evaluation. Typically they are advisors, instructors, supervisors and employers who can comment on their personal attributes. The system then sends an email to the evaluators to log-in and respond to 4 statements about each of the 6 personal attributes. For each statement, the evaluator uses a 5 point scale that ranges from below average to truly exceptional.

ETS PPI report will include information on how to interpret the results, to assist the admission committee in using the results for comparison among candidates.

ETS PPI provides a snapshot that round off a graduate's application. It is intended to add to the current testing, not to replace it. It gives an institution a more complete picture of a student's potential and success.

After the video, Graduate Council expressed some concerns about the information being subjective, depending on who is doing the evaluating. It was also felt that this may prove to be "one more step" that evaluators have to complete. It was suggested to incorporate a checklist as part of the recommendation form.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on a motion by Professor Lander and seconded by Professor Guay.

Minutes recorded by Cheryl McGowan,
Secretary to the Vice Provost and Dean
of the Graduate School