

**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY**

**MINUTES OF THE November 15, 2010 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**

- PLACE:** Couper Administrative Building - Room148
- PRESIDING:** Nancy E. Stamp, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
- MEMBERS:** Jacques Beaumont Junghyun Cho, Carmen Ferradas, Robert Guay, William Heller, Mark Fowler, Tongshu Ma, Dina Maramba, Beverly Rainforth, Mary Muscari, Chuck Nelson, Thomas O'Brien
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Dara Silberstein, Lindsay Tremain, Steven Gilje
- EXCUSED:** Wendy Martinek, Andrew Merriwether, Dawnie Steadman
- ABSENT:** Elizabeth Brown, Brandon Gibb, Debi Mishra, William Haver, Wayne Jones, Les Lander, Max Pensky, Pamela Mischen

**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 October 18, 2010 were approved as written.

**III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Curriculum Committee**

This Committee approved the following course:

- Nursing – NURS581J Forensic Pediatrics

The motion was made to accept the courses and all were in favor.

**Academic Standards Committee**

This committee has not met.

### **Advisory Committee on Scholarship and Research**

ACSR held two meetings this month. At the first meeting, the topic was the construction of the new Science and Engineering Building. At the second meeting, the group took a tour of the new building, which is expected to be open to students in Fall 2011.

### **Budget Advisory Committee**

The Budget Advisory Committee met on November 10, 2010. The committee discussed the recession and the impact it has had on the Graduate School's budget. A goal is to minimize the cuts to GA/TA lines. The committee discussed strategies and priorities in dealing with the budget cuts. It was felt that a priority should be placed on doctoral students and making sure that our best programs are not being hurt by the budget cuts, including that these programs do not fall below critical mass. The best doctoral programs can be identified as those that align with the national best practices in graduate education, which includes reducing time-to-degree, reducing attrition, mentoring students, and helping them get good placements when they graduate. The "soft" money that is available from the Binghamton Foundation is used for student travel and fellowships, and matching for training grants. For example the LSAMP program supports undergraduate students from underrepresented minorities to get them interested in going into graduate education.

This fall, The Budget Advisory Committee awarded travel grants to graduate students in the total of \$5,000.

### **Clark Fellowship Advisory Committee**

This committee has not met.

### **Grievance Committee**

This committee has not met.

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

This committee has not met.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Dean Stamp discussed Binghamton University's Strategic Plan as it pertains to graduate education. The Middle States review took place in early November and focused on the University's Strategic Plan. One of the goals in the plan is to increase graduate enrollment by at least 300 students over the next five years. Another goal is reducing the average time to degree in doctoral programs below the national norms. Professor Tom O'Brien stated that growing the doctoral programs would require increasing the number of stipends and tuition scholarships to support doctoral students, and such increase in the enrollment in department should depend on the demand in the job market. Also, taking on more students requires hiring more faculty to support the additional students.

The National Doctoral Survey shows the national trends of time-to-degree from doctoral graduates across the country. At Binghamton University, the Office of Institutional Research has calculated time to degree for Binghamton University. Binghamton University has improved its median time-to-degree since the 2006 National Research Council doctoral study. All of our departments have doctoral time-to-degree below the national norm, and our statistics look good compared to our competitors. The national consensus for the target for time-to-degree for doctoral degrees is around 4 to 5 years depending on the discipline.

Another important issue regarding the University Strategic Plan is making sure that doctoral stipends are competitive at the national level. Analysis of the 2008 stipend survey in the Chronicle of Higher Education of 8 different disciplines showed that, on average, Binghamton's stipends were about \$1,500 below Northeast public institutions.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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