BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE December 12, 2011 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

PLACE:	Couper Administrative Building - Room148
PRESIDING:	Nancy E. Stamp, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
MEMBERS:	Laura Collins, Brandon Gibb, Les Lander, Susan Lu, Dina Maramba, Pamela Mischen, Mary Muscari, Chuck Nelson, Libby Tucker
EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:	Elizabeth Brown, Stephen Gilje, Florence Margai, Paul Parker
GUESTS:	Carol Linskey and Joe Stanley
EXCUSED:	George Catalano, Cheryl Fabrizi, Carmen Ferradas, Nicholas Kaldis, Tongshu Ma, Thomas O'Brien, Benita Roth, Omowunmi Sadik, Mohammed Younis
ABSENT:	Junghyun Cho, Wayne Jones, Debi Mishra, Patrick Regan, Steven Tammariello

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 November 14, 2011 were approved as written.

III. COMMITTEES

Academic Standards Committee

This committee met on Wednesday, November 28, 2011 to review two reports created by graduate students, Carol Linskey and Joe Stanley.

Carol Linskey conducted research on the distinguished Dissertation Awards patterns. She studied the Dissertation Award process nationally. Aligning our dissertation award procedures with the Council of Graduate Schools would increase the likelihood that students from our campus would qualify for the national award.

Carol's research showed that most universities were giving $1,000 awards and that Social Science (Education) was the discipline that had the most dissertation awards.

The Committee discussed how to make students aware that these awards are available and to help them in putting together their application. They also felt it was important to help faculty understand the process. The national committee is looking for unusual significant contributions to the discipline. Increasingly the ones that are interdisciplinary are standing out. Faculty advisors need to write strong and thoughtful letters to address what the national committee is looking for.

Carol's research report will be sent out to all of the Graduate Directors on campus.

Joe Stanley, who just received his PhD, reported on the structure of exams students take to get to ABD (all but dissertation), the timelines and general patterns at Binghamton University.

Joe studied individual handbooks for each program and on campus to ascertain their ABD procedures. He also gathered data from the last 6 semesters at Binghamton to see how long it took departments on average to get students to ABD status.

Using comparative materials from the University of California system, Joe collated by BU department, the average time it took to reach ABD status. He found that, for the most part, our averages fell in-line with the UC system. He also studied some "best practice" universities, such as, Rutgers University, Michigan State University, and the University of Delaware. Overall, he found that their doctoral programs had far more stringent and hard deadlines in terms of when to take the actual comprehensive examination after course complete. For example, some departments here at Binghamton University allow students to take the comprehensive exam within 18 months of being course complete, while some of the best practices universities have mandated that the students take the exam within 6 months, or risk losing their funding.

Joe's research suggests that departments should reexamine their graduate handbooks and look at timelines regarding the comprehensive examinations.

Dean Stamp discussed the time-to-degree policy for doctoral programs and the 2005 report from the University of California system, which in general is 5 years from entry with bachelor degree. Increasingly, around the country, the time-to-degree policy for doctoral programs is 5 years. As Joe Stanley's report indicates, Binghamton University's time-to-degree is within the norm of what is happening nationally.

Advisory Committee on Scholarship and Research
This committee has not met.

Budget Advisory Committee
This committee met on Monday, November 21st and selected nine Binghamton Foundation Travel award recipients. Each recipient will receive a $500 cash award.

Curriculum Committee
This committee met on December 5th at 3:00 p.m. and approved the following courses/programs:

Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies
AAAS 551 Globalization and Asia
AAAS 550 Political Economy of East Asia

AAAS 541 History of Women in East Asia
AAAS 540 Confucianism and Korea
AAAS 531 Unresolved Issues from Modern Wars in Asia
AAAS 530 Trauma, Repetition & Recovery in Modern Japanese Literature & Film
AAAS 523 Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language
AAAS 522 History of Chinese Language
AAAS 515 Ethnographic Asian America
AAAS 512 U.S. Empire in the Pacific
AAAS 510 Asian American Historiography
AAAS 511 AfroAsian Encounters

Department of Bioengineering
BME 524 Graduate Seminar in Complex Systems Science

Political Science Department
PLSC 690 Advanced Research Seminar
Romance Language Department
Combined Degrees in French BA and French MAT
Combined Degree in Spanish BA and Spanish MAT

Community College of Public Administration – Public Administration
Combined Degree in Judaic Studies and Masters of Public Administration 3-2
Combined Degree in Philosophy, Politics and Law & Public Administration 3-2

Community College of Public Administration – Social Work
Advanced Certificate for Geriatrics and Gerontology

The following course/program is pending approval:
Experimental Course from CCPA HDEV 520X – Pakistan: Postcolonial Violence, Development and Decolonization
Combined Degree in Environmental Studies and Masters in Public Administration 3-2

Excellence Awards/Grievance Committee
This committee met on December 5, 2011 and chose the Graduate Student Excellence Awards for academic year 2011-012.

Strategic Planning Committee
This committee has not met.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 on a motion by Professor Gibb and seconded by Vice President Gilje.

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