BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE September 26, 2011 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

PLACE: Couper Administrative Building - Room 148

PRESIDING: Nancy E. Stamp, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

MEMBERS: Junghyun Cho, Carmen Ferradas, Brandon Gibb, Nicholas Kaldis, Les Lander, Susan Lu, Dina Maramba, Pamela Mischen, Mary Muscari, Thomas O’Brien, Patrick Regan, Benita Roth, Omowunmi Sadik, Steven Tammarielo, Mohammed Younis, Laura Collins

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Elizabeth Brown, Florence Margai, Paul Parker

EXCUSED: George Catalano, Stephen Gilje, Chuck Nelson, Libby Tucker

ABSENT: Wayne Jones, Tongshu Ma, Debi Mishra

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introductions of the members were made.

This year the sub-committees of Graduate Council will have a set schedule, meeting at the same time that Graduate Council Meetings take place, on a Monday at 3:00 p.m. Also, this year, we are going to balance the workload over the committees. For example, in the spring semester, the Academic Standards Committee will be reviewing the Dissertation Awards. The Grievance Committee, this fall, will be reviewing the Excellence Awards.

III. MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 9, 2011 were approved as written, with 4 abstentions.

IV. NOTIFICATIONS

Academic Honesty Policy

Last year, Faculty Senate was looking at the Academic Honesty policy due to the increasing number of plagiarism cases, both at the undergraduate and graduate level. There has been a sub-committee established to look at solutions to this problem. They have reviewed and discussed how other research universities handle violations of academic integrity and use transcript notations. Transcript notation would indicate on a student's transcript a notation of academic dishonesty with one of the following appropriate terms: reprimanded, suspended, expelled, or degree rescinded. Once this committee has written a formal proposal regarding the transcript notation policy, they will present it to Faculty Senate.
Graduate Students Affected by September Flood

The Graduate School reached out to graduate students affected by the flood to assist them with their financial needs, as many of them lost housing, computers, books and personal belongings. We worked with the Financial Aid Office to identify the students and gave them each $1,000 to rebuild some of what they lost. On campus, Johnson Hall, closed for renovation, was reopened to house students who did not have a place to stay. Due to this natural disaster, some students left the area and have not returned to the University.

V. OVERVIEW OF GRADUATE COUNCIL:

The dean reviewed the purpose of Graduate Council and its committees.

Enrollment Targets

SUNY 2020 is an agreement between the SUNY chancellor, NYS governor and the NYS legislature. The agreement includes a potential tuition increase over 5 years. The Board of Trustees and/or the legislature decides whether or not we actually have an increase each year. Part of that increase is premised on increasing enrollment at approximately 500 students per year over 5 years. This will be a challenge, especially this year, with the flooding disaster. There will have to be further discussions on how we are going to meet enrollment targets. In terms of the number of Graduate School TA/GA stipends and tuition scholarships, they should remain the same.

VI. OVERVIEW OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

In New York State, the funding for higher education has seen a decline and Binghamton University has suffered more than 20% cut to base. It is estimated that it costs approximately $40,000 or more a year to educate a graduate student. At public institutions in the northeast, Binghamton is still one of the lowest in terms of tuition.

Binghamton university has a Strategic Plan. An objective is for stipend levels to be in the top 25% for public stipends. Part of the Strategic Plan is to increase graduate enrollment to keep graduate portion of total university enrollment between 20 and 25%. The Graduate School is involved in what is called the top of the funnel recruitment.

The major items for Graduate Council this year will be: 1) Realign the workload for Graduate Council Committees; 2) review prospectus policy of doctoral programs; 3) encourage students and departments to apply for more external research and dissertation fellowships; 4) Update the dissertation awards; and 5) Revisit the Academic Honesty Policy.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Dean of the School of Education has requested Faculty Senate to approve a name change from the “School of Education” to “Graduate School of Education”. The School of Education is a graduate program with all graduate level students; therefore, it would like its name to reflect that.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 on a motion by Professor O’Brien and seconded by Professor Lander.

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