



BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2013 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

- PLACE:** University Union West– Room 325
- PRESIDING:** Susan Strehle, Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
- MEMBERS:** Kristina Lambright, Subimal Chatterjee, Les Lander, Mary Muscari, Thomas O'Brien, Libby Tucker
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Elizabeth Brown, Mary Beth Curtin, Florence Margai
- EXCUSED/ABSENT:** David Bartine, Nicholas Kaldis, Cassandra Bransford, George Catalano, Junghyun Cho, Samantha Fox, Gerald Kutcher, Susan Lu, Tongshu Ma, Cory Martin, Chuck Nelson, Paul Parker, Benita Roth, Omowunmi Sadik, Linda Wong, Mohammed Younis, Steven Tammariello, Linda Wong

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Susan Strehle called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

II. ELECTION INFORMATION

The ballot for the next years' election has gone out and we will announce new members for next year.

III. MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 18, 2013 Graduate Council Meeting were approved as written.

IV. COMMITTEES

Curriculum Committee The committee met on April 29. Some proposals required revisions. All of the issues and concerns that were raised were adequately addressed by the respective departments. The Economics Department submitted two proposals for revised graduate courses: ECON 618: *Panel Data and Stochastic Frontier Models* and ECON 619: *Time Series Analysis*. These two courses have been previously offered under a different rubric. The revision creates two separate courses with revised titles to reflect the course content and to respond to changes in the PhD program. The next course was submitted by the Anthropology Department: ANTH 570D: *Archaeometry*. This course has been endorsed by the department of Geological services as well. The next course, from Systems Science and Industrial Engineering: SSIE 637: *Advanced Topics in*

Health Systems, is a 3 credit course. It cuts across disciplines and has received an endorsement from the School of Nursing. The next proposal revises an existing program in the School of Nursing. All of the revisions are tied to psychiatric nursing and the request is for revision in four areas: 1) the masters in psychiatric nursing with a focus on health practitioner; 2) general masters in psychiatric nursing; 3) the advanced certificate portion; and 4) the DNP. The changes proposed create better compliance with the numbering system and give students more options in their master's programs. The final proposal creates a combined degree program in Economics and Public Administration, leading to a BA/MPA that would take approximately five years and account for a total of 150 credits. All proposals were unanimously approved.

Academic Standards Committee The committee met on May 1 to discuss two issues. One had to do with retirees and their service on dissertation committees, and the second had to do with the use of video conferencing or other kinds of electronic participation in dissertation defenses. These issues came up because of requests from faculty members to allow a retiree to serve on the dissertation committee; when the dissertation director and graduate director agree that it is appropriate, the graduate school should approve the request. Regarding remote participation in defenses, the members of the dissertation committee, the outside examiner, and the student may all request permission to participate via Skype or teleconference. The committee felt that under normal circumstances attendance is important for all three, but in the case of economic hardship the graduate school should be open to requests for exceptions. The council voted unanimously to approve these recommendations.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research This committee has met three times as of May 6 and one more meeting is scheduled for next week. Mary Beth Curtin spoke regarding ACSR. ACSR worked on reviewing the organized research centers' annual reports and ultimately their budget requests for the upcoming year. In addition to that, ACSR met to look at eleven applications for the interdisciplinary collaborative grants program. Two were recommended to receive \$10,000 each. Those recommendations went to the VP for Research and he concurred; awardees will be notified in a day or so. ACSR has decided that over the summer they will revise the guidelines for the interdisciplinary collaborative grants program, in part to encourage more applications from non-STEM fields. In addition ACSR will revise the format of the organized research centers' annual reports to streamline and make them more useful not only for the PI who prepares them, but also for the committee members reviewing them.

Budget Advisory Committee This committee has not met.

Student Affairs Committee This committee has not met.

Strategic Planning Committee This committee has not met.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Dean Strehle spoke about what the graduate school has accomplished in recruitment and admissions for the current year. With only two professionals and three secretaries who work on funding and admissions, Binghamton has a smaller staff than any of the other three university centers. Nonetheless, we achieved a fairly sizeable increase in graduate applications this year; ours was the only center that had an increase in applications. This is due in large part to the efforts of Alex Popovski and Kishan Zuber, who created several innovative strategies for graduate student recruiting. Binghamton invested in "HotCourses.com" and other platforms for graduate education that give our programs increased global visibility. Nationally, the Council of Graduate Schools reported that international applications to graduate schools across the United States are up 1%; but at Binghamton, they rose by 29%.

As we head into summer, we can and should try to increase the yield of the students that have been admitted. Programs are encouraged to do all they can to help the campus meet the goal of an additional 400 graduate students by 2015.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 after a motion by Thomas O'Brien, seconded by Mary Muscari.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Spencer,
Secretary to the Interim Vice Provost and Dean
of the Graduate School