BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE December 9, 2013 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

PLACE: Couper Administration Building - Room 148

PRESIDING: Susan Strehle, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

MEMBERS: Karen Bromley, Shelley Dionne, Norah Henry, Gerald Kutcher, Kenneth McLeod, Chuck Nelson, Sara Reiter, Pam Smart, Steven Tammaro, Libby Tucker, Linda Wong

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Elizabeth Brown, Sarah Lam, Paul Parker, Mary Beth Curtin

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Serdar Atav, Cassandra Bransford, George Catalano, Subimal Chatterjee, Peter Fiduccia, Samantha Fox, Nicholas Kaldis, Adam Laats, Kristina Lambright, Susan Lu, Benita Roth, Omowunmi Sadik, Mohammad Younis

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Susan Strehle called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the October 21st graduate council meeting were approved as written.

III. COMMITTEES

Academic Standards Committee The committee met on November 11, 2013. The committee discussed revisions to the certificate of completion in teaching college/university. The changes include removing outdated workshops and events that are no longer offered on campus and replacing them with workshops that are organized by the Writing Center, the graduate community of scholars (GCOS) and also the Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT). The second main change comes in the form of the approval of the committee to add the GRD 676 course (The Community College) as an option for coursework for students working on this certificate. The GRD 676 course can be used to replace the 500-level Issues in Teaching College and the 500-level Practicum in Teaching courses.

The second issue considered by the committee concerned outside examiners with joint titles and co-authorship. It was decided that this topic will be tabled and reviewed again in the next Graduate Council meeting scheduled for February.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research This committee has been meeting bi-weekly. Since the last meeting, there is now an ACSR website that is accessible from the web page of the Vice President for Research. This site highlights some of the TAE awards that ACSR has helped to review. ACSR also created policies and procedures that govern how Organized Research Centers are created, funded and operate. This fall, the committee has developed a document inviting faculty to propose new requirements for the ORC’s; the new format will shorten the yearly reports and remove recycled material in order to streamline the process and to make the reviews more useful. The annual report call is out, as well as the annual request for the GA lines for the ORC’s. ACSR has also spent a lot of time this fall working with the TAE committees helping to review the proposals that have gone out for each of the 5 groups. As of now, the proposals for the SMART Energy, Health Sciences, Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging have been reviewed, ranked and awarded. The Sustainable Communities and Material and Visual Worlds will be completed. When that is done there will be one overall call in the
spring for proposals with Road Map funding and the TAEs and ACSR will come together again to streamline those.

**Budget Advisory Committee** This committee has not met.

**Clark Fellowship Committee** This committee has not met.

**Curriculum Committee** The committee met on December 2, 2013. Two items were considered for permanent courses: EECE 566 Detection Theory and GEOL 515 Basin Analysis. No questions were raised, and they stand approved.

There is a proposal to revise the existing MA in Geography by adding an additional track in Population, Health and GIS. This new track aligns with the Health TAE, Sustainable Communities TAE and the Citizenship, Rights and Belonging TAE. There is very high student demand for this track. It establishes partnerships with local health organizations and medical professionals. This track capitalizes on the department’s strengths. This program is unique in SUNY; no other program exists within NY in this particular concentration. The proposal passed with a unanimous vote.

The next is a request from Geography to change course numbering for two courses and a title change. The first is for the GIS and Spatial Analysis, changing from GEOG 502 to GEOG 544. The idea is that students are coming in with pre-requisites, knowledge and skills, so it’s no longer an entry level GIS course, making it a higher level course. The next is advanced cartography, GEOG 569. It is an entry level GIS course and it covers both private and public sectors so the idea is to change it to a lower number which is GEOG 502 and then change the course title to reflect that. The new title is GIS for Planners. This stands approved.

**Student Affairs Committee** This committee has not met.

**Strategic Planning Committee** This committee has not met. Things have changed in the Graduate school, and it may be time for a new strategic plan. This committee will be called upon to meet in the spring and will be tasked with figuring out what kinds of functions properly belong to the graduate school. In January, the Graduate School staff will take a trip to SUNY Buffalo to meet with them regarding their processes and staffing.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

In response to a question about the funding of OR Center GAs, the Dean explained that all ORCs have been invited to submit requests for these funded graduate assistants. Requests are due by December 15th, sent by email to the Vice Provost and Dean of the graduate school. Requests will be forwarded to ACSR for discussion with the committee. Following the committee’s recommendations, final decisions are made by the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice President for Research. The information will be presented to the Graduate Council.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 after a motion by Norah Henry and seconded by Gerald Kutcher.

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