

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE March 31, 2014 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

- PLACE:** Couper Administration Building - Room148
- PRESIDING:** Susan Strehle, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
- MEMBERS:** Serdar Atav, Subimal Chatterjee, Shelley Dionne, Norah Henry, Gerald Kutcher, Kristina Lambright, Adam Laats, Susan Lu, Chuck Nelson, Sara Reiter, Pam Smart, Libby Tucker
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Elizabeth Brown, Sarah Lam, Paul Parker, Mary Beth Curtin
- EXCUSED/ABSENT:** David Bartine, Cassandra Bransford, Karen Bromley, George Catalano, Peter Fiduccia, Samantha Fox, Nicholas Kaldis, Kenneth McLeod, Benita Roth, Omowunmi Sadik, Timothy Singler, Steven Tammariello, Linda Wong

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Susan Strehle called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the February 24, 2014 Graduate Council meeting were approved as written.

III. COMMITTEES

Academic Standards Committee The committee met on March 3, 2014. The first discussion concerned whether a D grade, allowed only within Harpur, should be eliminated to bring Harpur into alignment with the other schools. The D grade has no numerical value, is not a passing grade, and does not differ substantively at the graduate level from an F. The committee recommended that the D grade be eliminated from Harpur College. Norah Henry made a motion to have Harpur graduate directors involved in whether the D grade would remain or not. The motion was seconded by Libby Tucker with no oppositions or abstentions from the rest of the Council. Susan will send a communication out via email regarding this.

The next discussion related to discrepancies between Graduate School policy and department policy. At the graduate school, a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 is required for graduation; below that students are placed on probation and below 2.6 on academic jeopardy. The philosophy department set their minimum GPA at 3.7 in their graduate advising handbook. A grade of A- indicates that there is work to be improved, a grade of B+ indicates serious concern and a B is an unsatisfactory grade. After a few semesters of a grade below B+, the student will be severed from the program. Students have lost funding and been dismissed from the program for a GPA below 3.7. This raises the question of whether it is unfair to students to have a program set standards that are far out of alignment with the Graduate School's standards. Members of Council asked that the philosophy department be required to inform students, at the point of admission to the program, that they will be severed from the program if they carry a GPA lower than 3.7. A student may not necessarily understand the numeric scale of the grading system, and it should be communicated to them that if they get a "B+" or any grade below an "A-", they could lose funding or be removed from the program.

The final discussion regarded joint titles and co-authorship in relation to service as outside examiner on dissertations. It was decided that the wording would be changed, striking the current sentence completely from the

form to read “in cases of potential conflicts of interest, inquiries should be made with the associate dean.” The Council agreed with this and approved.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research ACSR met on March 25th. ACSR noted that 24 proposals were received for the interdisciplinary collaboration grant program. Six small review committees have been created, each including two members from one of the TAEs and a member from ACSR. Those small groups will review each group of proposals that were submitted for the TAEs and all members of ACSR will review those proposals submitted for the open call. Announcements will go out in May for projects beginning July 1 for 12 months.

All of the organized research centers have now submitted their annual reports and budget requests. ACSR is reviewing those and an anonymous set of feedback comments will go back to the directors of the centers around July 1 along with the notification regarding their status and their budget requests.

Budget Advisory Committee This committee has not met.

Clark Fellowship Committee This committee met two times in March and made 10 offers. Two have declined, three have accepted and five are currently pending. The committee will look at the remaining 11 nominations and will likely offer three more rewards.

Curriculum Committee The committee met on March 24, 2014 to discuss several items. The first referenced program changes in Mathematical Sciences, changing the MA requirements from 30 to 32 because all of their courses are 4 credit courses. The department also requested a flexible system of required courses for both their MA and PhD degrees, allowing students to choose 7 courses from a list of 16. No questions were raised and the proposals were approved without dissent by the Graduate Council.

The Music department proposed to add Mus 522 - Analytical Techniques, covering techniques for musical analysis, and Mus 567- Seminar in Music and New Voices, geared toward both composers and performers. No questions were raised and the proposals were approved without dissent.

The Psychology department proposed to change three courses, PSY 598: Clinical Psychology Practicum; PSY 614: Multicultural Psychology; and PSYC 694: Continuing Clinical Training, from experimental to permanent. No questions were raised and these proposals were approved.

The Anthropology department proposed a permanent course, Anth 593, Research Proposal Writing. No questions were raised and the course was approved.

The Graduate School of Education proposed EDUC 583, Theories of Second Language Acquisition. No questions were raised and the request was approved.

Student Affairs Committee This committee has not met.

Strategic Planning Committee This committee has not met.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The university had a graduate recruiting fair on Monday, March 31. Approximately 50 or 60 students stopped in and were interested in various campus graduate programs. The fair was an attempt to recruit Binghamton undergraduates to continue for graduate study.

The 4-1-1 proposal is moving forward, and it looks as though a new degree proposal will need to be made. The current master's programs do not accommodate internship experience readily. However, geography and English do use internship experiences or allow it due to elective credits.

Pharmacy passed in the Faculty Senate, and two outside evaluators have agreed to visit campus to advise us about the proposal; both are sitting deans and they are coming in on June 2 and 3.

There is a master's degree in applied statistics that is coming soon from the department of math. They have an existing MA and the idea is to add a track in applied statistics.

The resources for tuition GATAs and RPAs have been decentralized to the dean's offices. The RF has discovered that there are different interpretations by the various schools regarding the allocation of tuition scholarships. A meeting was held to consider the issues. The university has historically funded RPAs supported on externally sponsored projects with the same level of tuition support as GATAs. The RF will make recommendations to the Provost and Graduate School on how things should move forward.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 after a motion by Serdar Atav and seconded by Pam Smart.

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