BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE May 5, 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, David Bartine, Subimal Chatterjee, Gerald Kutcher, Kristina Lambright, Adam Laats, Susan Lu, Sara Reiter Steven Tammariello, Libby Tucker, Linda Wong

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

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Cassandra Bransford, Karen Bromley, George Catalano, Shelley Dionne, Peter Fiduccia, Samantha Fox, Norah Henry, Nicholas Kaldis, Kenneth McLeod, Chuck Nelson, Benita Roth, Omowunmi Sadik, Timothy Singler, Pam Smart

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the March 31, 2014 Graduate Council meeting were approved as written.

III. COMMITTEES

Academic Standards Committee  Discussion was held regarding the “D” grade in Harpur college. An email went out to the graduate directors regarding whether they want to keep the D grade, and the responses came back nearly all in favor of eliminating it. No questions or comments were raised, and Council members approved a decision to remove the D.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research  The committee received two proposals for two new Organized Research Centers and both are currently under review by ACSR and will be completed by May. All of the proposals for the interdisciplinary collaboration grants program have been reviewed by their internal teams and recommendations have gone to each of the five TAEs. There is an approximate two-week time period for them to review and make final recommendations to the VP for Research, which will be done by mid-May. The awards will then be announced by the end of the month.

Budget Advisory Committee  This committee has not met in person, but the committee members reviewed applications for two awards. The first is the Rosa Colecchio Graduate Travel Award for dissertation research enhancement. This award had two applications; both were deemed fundable so both students got the award. The second was the BU Foundation Travel grant award, for which 65 applications were received, the majority of which were ABD students. The committee evaluated, provided rankings and recommendations on the applications via email due to the spring/Easter break week. Twenty-four applicants were awarded partial amounts from the $5,000 budget for the grant.

Clark Fellowship Committee  This committee met on April 7 to review the remaining nominations for Clark Fellowship awards. A total of 12 offers were accepted for the 2014/2015 academic year, and an additional 4 LSAMP students will transition to Clark from mechanical engineering, computer science, electrical engineering and behavioral neuroscience.

Curriculum Committee  The committee met on April 28, 2014. Three permanent course proposals were discussed. Two are from the mechanical engineering department. The first is ME 552, Transport Phenomena II. This course covers advanced topics in fluid mechanics including multiphase flows and complex fluids. No questions were raised and the course stands approved. The next item is ME570, Introduction to Nanotechnology. This covers nanostructured materials and devices, nanofabrication techniques, etc., No
Two 4+1 combined degree proposals were discussed. The first combined the English BA and the masters in public administration (MPA), which students could complete in a total of 5 years. Students with a GPA of 3.5 or better are admitted into this program, which allows the students to double count a total of 18 credits during their senior year toward both programs. A vote was taken; the measure passed with no opposition and one abstention. The next item combined the BA and MA in English. It allows 8 graduate credits to be double counted both toward the BA and MA English programs. Students will double count 2 graduate courses and may completing both degrees in 5 years, depending on whether the students can take some courses during the summer semester. This was approved with no dissent.

The last item is the letter of intent for the MA in Liberal Studies (MALS), presented to Council for information and discussion. The degree, created as an option for the 4-1-1 program, requires a total of 36 graduate credits and focuses on global contemporary issues. It offers different study areas in humanities and social sciences, covering a range of skills needed by students and sought by employers. The most important piece is that it provides two internship opportunities for the students. Currently there are no programs like this on campus. It is different from the three other MALS programs in the SUNY system offered by Stony Brook, Brockport and Empire State College. Those campuses primarily focus on working adults or learners with very little interest in pursuing further graduate study, while the proposal at Binghamton University will address the needs of our own recent college graduates who would want additional coursework to help prepare them for careers and also to determine whether they want doctoral study as a next step. The program will draw on existing faculty who would be qualified to offer the courses, and as the program grows, additional faculty may be hired to offer specialized courses in the global areas. Employers say they want employees to have great communication skills, with the ability to research, analyze data and be able to present findings in writing or verbally. The Binghamton MALS program is designed to take graduating seniors and make them extremely desirable employees.

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

**Strategic Planning Committee** This committee has not met.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Provost has called a retreat of all of the deans on the Thursday after commencement to talk about how to increase graduate enrollments and what new programs might be developed both within schools and across schools. Each dean has been given an enrollment target for 2014 and it appears that management, Watson and nursing are going to meet their targets. Because growth is occurring in fields where jobs are plentiful, our challenge in growing is to think about how to add new programs that will attract students while we protect the excellence of the fields within this university that do not connect to immediate employment opportunities. Our current projections for fall, 2014 suggest that enrollments will be up about 150 additional graduate students. They will largely be in Watson, management and nursing. A program like the MALS design could invigorate the arts, humanities and social sciences, because it could take students in fields that are currently not career directed and, in one year, it could give them a type of polish and advanced skills, allowing them to be readily employed.

### V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 after a motion by Susan Lu and seconded by Kristina Lambright.

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