

**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY**

**THE GRADUATE COUNCIL- MEETING MINUTES**

**September 18, 2023**

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**PLACE:** Zoom / Couper Administration, AD-148

**PRESIDING:** Gretchen Mahler, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

**MEMBERS:** Loretta Mason- Williams, Sharon Bryant, Hiroki Sayama, Tao Zhang, Yvonne Johnston, Pegor Aynajian, Norah Henry, Sarah Young, Anja Karnein, Andreas Pape, Kyoung-Don Kang, Vladimir Nikulin, Praseeda Gopinath, Nicole Rouhana, Melissa Hardesty, Guy German, Sungdai Cho, Tony Davis, Brad Canno, Seden Akcinarogl, Weixing Zhu, Jobial Alex, Harshitha Gurram

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Junghyun Cho, Jillian Sandy, Kristina Marty, Carl Lipo, Michael Jacobson, Pam Stewart Fahs, Ellen Tilden

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Summer Farriss, Jenna Buquicchio, Steven Schwart, Judith Deluca, Yongabi Ngoh,

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Dean Mahler called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

**II. Minutes from the April 24, 2023 meeting**

The minutes from the April 24, 2023 meeting were approved as written. Yvonne Johnston made the motion and Nicole Rouhana seconded the motion. All were in favor to approve the minutes and none opposed.

**III. Presentation**

- Introducing everyone to Grad Council
- What is Grad Council - Grad Council is the legislative body of the graduate faculty.
- What the Grad Council does - establish policies and procedures, and also revises policies and procedures for the conduct of grad education at Binghamton, and makes recommendations to the university and, to the graduate school for ways that graduate education can be improved.

- Who serves on Grad Council
  - 10 members of the grad faculty who are the graduate directors for 1-year term
  - 11 members elected from the graduate faculty for 2- year term
  - 4 GSO representative from different colleges or schools
  - Ex officio members
- Powers and responsibilities
- Sub Committees meet monthly at the same time as Grad Council 3:30 to 5:00
  - **Academic Standards Committee** - reviews and recommends criteria for grad student admissions, academic standards, policies and procedures.
  - **Diversity Committee** – reviews nominations for the Clark fellowships and makes recommendations for awards
  - **Professional Development Committee** – come up with new ideas for supporting professional development for graduate students that are offered by the Grad School and by grad programs, work to identify best practices in grad education. Evaluate the Graduate School Excellence Awards
  - **Budget and Grievance Committee** - to advise on the allocation of student support resources. Also, meets if there is a student or faculty grievance that involves jurisdiction of the graduate school.

#### IV. Grad School Newsletter

- Updates from the Grad School
  - Graduate program handbook developed and approved
  - Notification to Grad Directors when students complete a semester withdrawal
  - Dual/ double degree students are no longer required to be full time
  - Dual/ double degree master-s degrees can be completed at different times
  - Non-matriculated graduate students will be asked to apply to a graduate program or sign a lifelong learner contract sooner
- New Graduate Programs
- Graduate student exit survey

- Given to Grad students every year, useful information and accessible to Grad Council
- 46% response rate (about 528 response out of 1150 that graduated last year)
- Some highlights & some of the things to pay attention to (top 5 scores and the bottom 5 scores)

## **V. New Business**

**Academic Standards Committee** – The committee's first meeting is October 2, 2023

**Diversity Committee**

**Professional Development Committee**

- Funding request form – for faculty or graduate directors who need supplemental funds for an event.

**Budget and Grievance Committee**

**Graduate Excellence Award**

- Due November 3
- \$500.00 honorarium

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. Yvonne Johnston made the motion and Kristina Marty seconded the motion. All in favor to adjourn the meeting and none opposed.

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Minutes recorded by Nicole Smith  
Administrative Assistant to the Dean