BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

PLACE: Couper Administration Building – Room 148

PRESIDING: Aondover Tarhule, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

MEMBERS: Seden Akcinaroglu, Manoj Agarwal, Peter Borgesen, David Campbell, Paul
Chiarot, Yu Chen, Nikolay Dimitrov, Leslie Gates, Robert Guay, Kimberly
Jaussi, Matthew Johnson, Lucky Mason-Williams, Weiyi Meng, Xingye Qiao,
Gail Rattinger, Nicole Rouhana, Nadia Rubaii, Pamela Smart, Douglas
Summerville, Nathan Tumey, Aondover Tarhule, Leo Wilton, Sabina Perrino

**EX OFFICIO
MEMBERS:**   Gretchen Mahler, Sara Reiter

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Christopher Bishop, Mary Beth Curtin, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Curtis
Kendrick

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Tarhule called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the April 29, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

Dean Tarhule welcomed all new and returning members to the council. This being the first Council
meeting of the Academic year, Dean Tarhule briefly outlined the purpose, functions and committees of
the Graduate Council, including each committee's responsibilities. He referenced the bylaws
regarding meeting quorums and stated the importance of meeting attendance by all members.

Dean Tarhule listed ongoing and planned initiatives within the Graduate School, including
DegreeWorks, data dashboards, additional financial support for graduate students conference travel
and the Taskforce on Graduate Education and Scholarship.

In response to a question about the best way to share reading materials and information for future
meetings, it was decided that the Graduate Council will utilize Google Drive.

III. Report from Committees

Academic Standards Committee – Associate Dean, Gretchen Mahler, reported that this Committee
has not yet met this academic year.

Curriculum Committee – This committee met on September 16, 2019. Gretchen Mahler presented
the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee reviewed six course proposals.

EDUC 510 - Issues in Education– This course is a three (3) credit graded course. This course has been offered for many years as EDUC 510X slash listed with EDUC 410 (Issues in Education) but was never sent through the approval process. The department expects that the course will remain a mainstay of the MS in Educational Studies and as that program expands, it might eventually be offered as a stand-alone course. The course explores political, economic, psychological, and social issues in schools. Critical reflective practice is encouraged by an emphasis on linking course readings and discussions with students' life experiences. Candace Mulcahy was present to answer questions. The Council approved the course proposal.

EECE 509 - Power Systems II – Protection and Control Writers. This course is a three (3) credit course letter graded course. The purpose of this course is to help students develop skills for analyzing electric power systems beyond power flow solutions. The following topics are covered: basics of economic dispatch; basics of fault analysis and fault current calculations; generator transients induced by grid faults; basics of power system protection; basics of stability concepts and stability analysis; basics of load frequency control, automatic generation control, reactive power and voltage control. The motivation for this proposal is that a single highly condensed course in power systems taught before 2014 was split into Power Systems I and II upon hiring new faculty members in the power systems area. EECE 480G/509X: Power Systems II - Protection and Control has been taught annually since the spring of 2014 as the second course in the 2-course sequence, following EECE 408/502: Power Systems I - Equipment and Power Flow. The approval sought here is to change the course number from 509X to 509. The change of the cross-listed undergraduate portion of the course number from 480G to 423 is being handled by the Chair of the ECE Undergraduate Studies Committee. Doug Summerville was present to answer questions. EECE 509 was approved.

EECE 519 - Control of Networked Systems. This course is a three (3) credit letter graded course. This course has been taught biennially since 2005. It was originally numbered and named EECE 619 Stochastic Control. It was then renamed as Control of Networked Systems in 2012 to better reflect its content. In 2017, the course was renumbered as EECE 580G with the addition of a cyber security component to meet the needs of some master students seeking to specialize in information assurance. The department seeks to renumber the

course as a formal 500 level course in the ECE Controls course sequence. This is an elective course. The course content includes methods and tools for modeling, control, and performance analysis of asynchronous systems driven by random events. The course also covers stochastic processes, Markov chain models, queuing systems, simulation of event- and time-driven systems, security and optimal control of networked systems as controlled Markov chains. Doug Summerville was present to answer questions. EECE 519 was approved.

EECE 564 – Convex Optimization. This is a three (3)-credit letter graded course. This course has been offered biennially since 2007. The department seeks to make this a permanent 500-level course to make it available to master's students, especially to those pursuing certificates in the information assurance area. This course is not required for specific tracks as its contents are applicable to almost all ECE graduate areas of focus. It is also listed as an elective under the cyber security certificate program. The course content includes convex sets, functions, and problems; basics of convex analysis; least-squares, linear, quadratic, geometric, and semi-definite programs; duality theory; numerical linear algebra and algorithms; MATLAB-based tools for convex optimization; applications to in signal processing, networking, control, circuit design, etc. Doug Summerville was present to answer questions. EECE 564 was approved.

ENVI 535 – Agricultural Futures. This is a four (4) credit normal graded course. This course will contribute to the curriculum of both ENVI Studies, as well as Sustainable Communities and MPA students studying sustainability and resilience of communities. This class will also provide additional opportunity for graduate students in environmental studies to fulfill their 500-level course unit requirements (as a relatively new graduate program there are few 500-level ENVI courses). Furthermore, this course will be connected directly with Binghamton University Acres Farm, an on campus farming project managed by the instructor and students. It will provide the conceptual background for the work that is done at the site. This course addresses the problems facing current agricultural systems and considers alternative approaches to food production by adopting alternative agricultural systems. It provides a theoretical background for topics in sustainable and regenerative agriculture. Topics covered include: perennial based agricultural systems, urban agriculture and social justice in the food system, "nature as measure," permaculture, and the problem of agriculture.

There will be field trips to Binghamton University Acres Farm and other regional farms, weather permitting. Grades will be based on two writing assignments, in-class presentations and class participation. ENVI 535 was approved.

MSHR 595 – Independent Study. This is a variable credit one to four (1-4) graded course. The Independent Study course for the Masters of Science in Human Rights (MSHR) is being proposed in order to offer a process through which students can receive credit for independent research and projects on topics that are not covered in the existing curriculum. This type of credit is typically offered in most graduate programs, but the MSHR does not currently do so. It includes individual research of special topics not offered elsewhere in the curriculum. Demonstrated academic ability and approval of proposed subject are required. Consent of instructor and departmental approval required. MSHR 595 was approved.

There were two (2) Program revision proposals.

The first one was Anthropology MA and PhD. This proposal seeks to eliminate the requirements that students take Anth 501 (History of Anthropology) and Anth 504 (Current Debates in Anthropology). The latter course is no longer taught, and the former course has become a remedial course for students without an anthropology background. Anth 501 may still be required by a student's supervisor. In place of these courses, the department proposes that students take four courses out of four approved subfield course groups that include history and theory of the sub discipline, rather than only three out of four subfield courses, and an elective chosen in consultation with the student's supervisor. The total number of required credits does not change, and students get more thorough exposure to the discipline. The total change to the program registered in 2014 is 20-26% for the MA and 14% for the PhD, which allows this proposal to be approved by Binghamton University campus governance. Anthropology MA and PhD was approved. It will move onto the next campus steps.

The next program revision proposal reviewed was Mechanical Engineering. The proposal is for B.S./M.S. 4+1. This proposal is a cumulative change from SED's last approval of the registered program of one-third or more of the minimum credits required for the award. Students will be required to take 3 core courses, rather than selecting 2 from a list of 4. As part of this, an Engineering Mathematics Course would now be required. Thesis-option students will be required to take 6 credits

of ME599 (Thesis) rather than 3 credit. Students must take 6-credits of technical electives and project-option students must take 3 credits of ME 598 (ME Project) or ME 594 (Internship). Thesis-option students take 6 credits of ME 599 (Thesis). Mechanical Engineering program was approved. Will move onto the next campus steps.

The next proposal reviewed was a New Program Proposal

Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. The Master of Science in Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (GMAP) will prepare graduates to analyze risk factors, formulate strategies, and implement policies and practices to reduce the occurrence, severity, and potential for reoccurrence of genocides and other mass atrocities around the world. Focusing on prevention, the program will educate students to recognize opportunities to engage in upstream (before conflict), midstream (during conflict) and downstream (post-conflict) prevention measures. Through an interdisciplinary approach integrating classroom learning, applied research, engagement with practitioners, and an intensive field placement, the program will prepare graduates to be prevention actors at the micro (individual), meso (organizational), and macro (societal) levels. The program is university-wide and overseen by the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, which reports to the Provost. Nadia Rubaii was available to answer questions. Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was approved. Will move onto the next campus steps.

The next was an Accelerated Program Proposal.

Human Development/TESOL. This proposal is for a multi-award program that leads to two separate awards (e.g., A.S./B.A., B.S./M.S.). Such programs generally involve special admissions for students who have the capacity to complete all awards, curricular integration between the component programs, and shortened time to degree compared to taking the programs separately. The Human Development/TESOL accelerated degree program faculty will restrict admissions to students with exceptional academic records. Students will apply for the accelerated degree program no later than the beginning of junior year, and admission decisions will be made no later than spring of junior year. Undergraduate HDEV students interested in the accelerated degree program will be advised to meet with the TESOL coordinator in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Leadership and with the HDEV advisor at the beginning of their sophomore year to ensure that all requirements are met

in a timely manner and to confirm eligibility for the accelerated degree option. By the first semester of the junior year, students must complete a Google Form verifying interest and eligibility. Application materials (see below) will be submitted informally to TLEL in the junior year. The formal admissions process will occur through the Graduate School upon completion of the senior year if coursework is satisfactory. Human Development/TESOL was approved and will move onto the next campus steps.

The next was a Micro-Credential Proposal.

Computer Science: Artificial Intelligence. This is from Computer Science (CS) Department. CS would like to offer an online version of the microcredential later. The proposal is made up of 12 credits. The Council discussed the merits and demerits of a microcredential versus a certificate course. Some members were of the opinion that the scope of the program (4 courses) made it better suited as a certificate course rather than a micro credentials. It was also pointed out that as a micro-credential students would be ineligible for financial aid. On the other hand, as a certificate, the proposal would need approval by SUNY but as a micro-credential only on-campus approval was needed. After considering all pros and cons, the department opted to proceed with the request for a micro-credential. The request was approved. Students in the program would receive a badge upon successful completion and a notation on their transcript.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research – The committee met on July 16, 2019.

Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee – This committee has not met.

Clark Advisory Committee – This committee has not met.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm

Minutes recorded by Patty Gabriel,
Executive Secretary to the Vice Provost and Dean
of the Graduate School
William Kuhnel, Funding & Travel Assistant