

**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY**  
**THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING**

*via zoom*

**March 25, 2024**

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

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

**STAFF:** Andreas Pape, Ellen Tilden, Ann Marie Kellogg (recorder)

**MEMBERS:** Seden Akcinaroglu, Weixing Zhu, Nicole Rouhana, Hiroki Sayama, Guy German, Melissa Hardesty, Tony Davis, Yvonne Johnston, Pegor Aynajian, John Kuhn, Brad Cannon, Steven Schwartz, Sharon Bryant, Vladimir Nikulin, Loretta Mason-Williams, Tao Zhang

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Michael Jacobson, Kristina Marty, Junghyun Cho, Judith DeLuca, Pamela Stewart Fahs, Jillian Sandy

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Sungdai Cho, Norah Henry, Praseeda Gopinath, Kyoung-Don Kang, Harshitha Gurrām (GSO President), Jobial Alex, Jenna Buquicchio, Summer Farriss, Carl Lipo, Niyazi Bodur,

**Call to Order:**

Dean Mahler called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**1. Minutes from the February 26, 2024 meeting**

Tony Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on February 26, 2024. Vladimir Nikulin seconded the motion. All were in favor and none were opposed. The minutes were approved as written.

**2. Committees**

- **Academic Standards Committee** – This committee met on March 11, 2024
  - Proposed: Changes to language on graduate student level (i.e. G1, G2, G3, G4). There was lengthy discussion about the proposed changes to The Graduate School Manual – Enrollment and Registration *Full-Time Registration Requirements*. All in attendance were in agreement that additional review was needed before approval of the changes. It was recommended that the matter be returned to the Academic Standards Committee for further discussion and then re-proposed to the Graduate Council for approval in April.
  - Proposed policy change: Three-year approval of Brian Sehn as a graduate instructor. Brian Sehn is a Binghamton University alumnus with an MS from 2009 and has 22 years

of field experience at BAE. He is being petitioned to act as an adjunct faculty for two courses in the BAE Leadership Development Programs. State education policy requires either a terminal degree or significant relevant experience to teach a course at the graduate level. Brian Sehn is being petitioned under the “significant relevant experience” requirement to be allowed to teach the Watson 592 and 593 courses for three years in the BAE Leadership Development Programs. It was noted by Hiroki Sayama, Chair of the Watson Graduate Studies Committee; Vladimir Nikulin; and Junghyun Cho that this instructor is specific to the Watson/BAE Masters of Engineering Program and the students being taught are all BAE employees. In addition, due to the proprietary information being taught, the classes are held on-site at BAE.

A motion to approve Brian Sehn to teach Watson 592 and 593 for three years was made by Hiroki Sayama and seconded by Vladimir Nikulin. All were in favor, and none were opposed. The motion was approved.

- **Diversity Committee** – This committee met on March 20, 2024
  - Update on Clark Fellowships: There are currently seven offers, all to PhD students. Another one will be extended this afternoon. The areas of study include psychology-behavioral neuroscience, psychology-clinical science, physics, philosophy, anthropology, electrical and computer engineering, chemistry, and pharmaceutical sciences. Based on the current budget, eight applications will be awarded in total. When the committee selects those who will be made offers, it also ranks the remaining applicants. That way, if an applicant is made an offer but declines, another student can be selected and made an offer.
- **Professional Development Committee** – This committee did not meet
- **Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee** – This committee did not meet

### 3. New Business

The deadline to apply for a Travel Award is April 5. Thereafter, the applications will be sent to the Budget and Grievance Committee for deliberation and allocation.

Gretchen Mahler and Andreas Pape were recently CIMER (Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research) trained. CIMER provides resources to improve research mentoring relationships. Gretchen and Andreas held the first faculty mentoring workshop on March 20, and the response was positive. The next workshop is scheduled for April 17, and they hope others will take the opportunity to attend. Andreas noted that some NSF Grants now require mentorship training for PI's who receive funded students. This class can count toward this requirement.

#### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Hiroki Sayama and seconded by Loretta Mason-Williams to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

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Ann Marie Kellogg, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)