

# BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

## THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

*via zoom*

April 22, 2024

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

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

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

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

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Michael Jacobson, Kristina Marty, Pamela Stewart Fahs, Jillian Sandy

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Andreas Pape, Praseeda Gopinath, Steven Schwartz, Harshitha Gurram (GSO President), Jobial Alex, Jenna Buquicchio, Summer Farriss, Carl Lipo, Junghyun Cho, Judith DeLuca, Niyazi Bodur.

#### Call to Order:

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

#### 1. Minutes from the March 25, 2024 meeting

Yvonne Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on March 25, 2024. Hiroki Sayama 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 April 10, 2024

➤ Changes to language on graduate student level (i.e. G1, G2, G3, G4)

This is a continuation of a discussion at the Graduate Council meeting held on March 25, which was tabled and carried over to the present meeting, regarding the classification of graduate students, specifically graduate student levels G1, G2, G3, and G4, that is necessary to more accurately reflect both clinical doctorate students and bachelor students admitted into PhD programs.

#### EXISTING POLICY:

- A Level 1 (G1) student is any master's-level student who still needs to complete 24 credit hours at Binghamton. **Level 1** students must be registered for **12 credits** to be considered full time.
- A Level 2 (G2) student is a master's-level student who has completed 24-credit hours at Binghamton.

- A Level 3 (G3) student is a doctoral student who has completed the requirements for a master's degree and has begun doctoral coursework. A Level 3 student will not be able to officially advance to candidacy as ABD (G4) without providing the Office of Graduate Admissions with a final, official transcript showing conferral of a master's degree.
- A Level 4 (G4) student is a doctoral student who has been advanced officially to candidacy (ABD).

PROPOSED CHANGE:

A Level 1 (G1) student is any master's-level student who has not yet completed 24 credit hours at Binghamton

TO:

A Level 1 (G1) student is:

- Any master's student who has not yet completed 24 graduate program credit hours at Binghamton, including approved transfer credits, or
  - Any doctoral student who has entered with less than a master's degree and who has not yet completed 24 graduate credit hours at Binghamton, including approved transfer credits.
- G1 students must be registered for 12 credits to be considered full-time.

A Level 2 (G2) student is any master's-level student who has completed 24 credit hours at Binghamton.

TO:

A Level 2 (G2) student is any graduate student who has completed 24 graduate credit hours at Binghamton, including approved transfer credits, who does not otherwise qualify as G3 or G4.

The proposed changes were presented to the committee for a vote. All were in favor and none were opposed. The proposed changes were therefore approved.

➤ Summer academic standing policy

Academic standing is calculated in the fall and spring by looking at cumulative GPA. If a student's cumulative GPA is below 3.0 (2.5 for students in the PharmD program), they are on academic probation. If a student's cumulative GPA is below 2.6, they are considered on academic jeopardy. If a student is on academic probation and does not raise their GPA above 3.0 in two semesters, they can be severed. If a student is on academic jeopardy, they are allowed one semester to get their GPA above 2.6 or they can be severed. The Academic Standing Policy needs to be revised to account for the academic programs that require summer coursework for which there currently is no academic standing being calculated. The Academic Standards Committee is recommending that academic standing be calculated at the end of the summer semester ONLY for students whose programs require summer coursework.

The current policy is:

**Determination of Academic Standing**

A cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 is required for a graduate degree. To maintain satisfactory academic progress, students are required to earn a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 in all courses that the Graduate School counts toward a degree. Students in the PharmD program in the SOPPS must earn a minimum grade-point average of 2.50. The Graduate School may sever a student, when in the estimation of the dean of the Graduate School (or the dean's designee), the student is not maintaining a satisfactory grade-point average, as required for graduation. Academic standing will be determined at the end of the fall semester, spring semester, and, if the student's program requires summer enrollment, at the end of the summer semester.

Graduate students may also be severed from the Graduate School for not meeting other academic requirements, such as not passing required exams or not meeting required program deadlines. In this case, graduate students may be severed by action of the dean of the Graduate School (or the dean's designee) on recommendation of the departmental graduate committee with endorsement by the department chair, or by the school/college graduate committee with endorsement by the dean of the school/college, if it appears that the student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree and it is unlikely that requirements for the degree will be satisfactorily completed.

The Academic Standards Committee is proposing to add at the end of the first paragraph:

*This evaluation will be made at the end of Fall semester, Spring semester, and, if the student's program requires Summer enrollment, at the end of the Summer semester.*

The proposed revision was presented to the committee for a vote. All were in favor and none were opposed. The proposed revision was therefore approved.

- **Diversity Committee** – This committee will meet on April 24, 2024
- **Professional Development Committee** – This committee did not meet
- **Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee** – This committee met on April 17, 2024

➤ Graduate School Travel Grants

For the April 2024 deadline, 101 applications were submitted for evaluation. Ten were fully funded, 18 were funded at 60 percent, and six (clinical pharmacy) were partially funded. The total amount awarded was just over \$19,700. In the future, the committee feels it would make the evaluation process more meaningful if it received more information regarding the purpose of, need for, and value of the travel. The next travel grant deadline is in July and the same committee is asked to evaluate those applications. A more comprehensive application is being developed that will address the concerns the committee encountered when reviewing the most recent candidates' submissions.

### 3. New Business

At its next meeting, the Diversity Committee will discuss the language included in the Clark Diversity Fellowship regarding eligibility. The Supreme Court decision on race-based admissions has changed the criteria that can be required to determine eligibility. The majority of the funding for the Clark fellowship comes from the State through the Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program (GDFFP). Recently SUNY has developed eligibility language for GDFFP funds, which we will need to follow in order to continue to receive support. This language will be updated on the Clark fellowship website, on the nomination forms, and on graduate application essays opening in the Fall 2024/Spring 2025.

Today is the last Graduate Council meeting for 2023-2024. There is a cohort of council members who are voted in by their peer faculty and serve a two-year term. This is year one of their two-year term. The remainder of the council is comprised of graduate directors who serve a one-year term. For them, this is your last meeting. Thank you for your work on the committee. Thank you also to the ex officio members.

#### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Hiroki Sayama and seconded by Sungdai Cho to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

*Ann Marie Kellogg*  
Ann Marie Kellogg, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)