

Graduate Council Meeting

Monday, November 4, 2024 ~ 3:30 – 4:30 pm
AD-148

MINUTES

PRESIDING: Terrence Deak, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

STAFF: Andreas Pape, Courtney Ignarri, Erica Sausner, Ellen Tilden, Ann Marie Kellogg (recorder)

PRESENT: Pegor Aynajian, Sharon Bryant, Norah Henry, Loretta Mason-Williams, Sungdai Cho, Yvonne Johnston, Jacqueline McGinley, Suzanne McLeod, Nicole Rouhana, Hiroki Sayama, Joshua Reno, Jobial Alex, Anjani Praneet Meruvu, Sarah Wexler, Yakubu Alhassan Zakaria, Jillian Sandy, Nicole Sirju-Johnson, Brad Cannon, Vladimir Nikulin, Steven Schwartz, Praseeda Gopinath, Yetrib Hathout, David Werner

ABSENT: Michael Jacobson, Niyazi Bodur, Judith Deluca, Pamela Stewart Fahs, Carl Lipo, Kyoung-Don Kang, Matt McConn, Tao Zhang

Call to Order:

Dr. Pape called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting on October 7, 2024

Dr. Pape asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 7. A member made a motion and another member seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. The minutes of both meetings were approved as written.

2. Report from the Dean

Dr. Deak reported that the Graduate School was audited by the campus internal audit department. There were no major findings. Some recommendations were made. He viewed the process favorably and felt it was a good tool for discovery and provided opportunities to review procedures.

The Graduate School currently offers certificates of completion in College Teaching and in Community College Teaching. These will be suspended and come back as a micro credential to conform with SUNY standards. We will also be updating the registration of a certificate in professional science management. We currently list several specific tracks for this certificate that were never approved, so these have been retired as well. All certificates at Binghamton are at the graduate level and the term “certificate” refers to a 1-year, official degree according to NYSED.

The Graduate School is developing a plan for time-to-degree, and Graduate Council will receive future updates. Best practice is for all doctoral students to be reviewed every year and the review documented to ensure they are on track for ABD from proposed dissertation (year 3) to completion by year 8. The intent is to complete this overall review by the end of the semester. The Graduate School will consult with departments before sending out letters. The goal is to confer degrees, not sever. Masters degrees are not suffering any issues with time to degree. It's time-to-degree for PhDs that are outliers.

ACTION ITEM: Committee members should begin talking to colleagues about how to review existing students and how best to implement going forward.

3. Committee Reports

- a. **Academic Standards Committee – did not meet**
 - b. **Budget/Grievance Committee – did not meet**
 - c. **Diversity Committee – met on October 21, 2024**
 - d. **Professional Development Committee – did not meet**
- b. Update: Travel Award applications are collected through the new website. Review of applications is next. There are currently 87 applications. Approximately 30 will be awarded.
- c. Discussion: Clark Application website. Presented new application website. Reviewed and approved new language for the website. The February 15 deadline is being consolidated. Applicants can still apply after February 15; however, there is no guarantee of funding. Research shows that 80-85 percent of students accept the first offer. We want to be proactive in making our offers.

4. For Discussion: Department-based Professional Development

Dr. Sausner spoke on professional development opportunities. A survey was sent asking about what opportunities programs are currently offering. A number of committee members shared opportunities their programs offer. Dr. Sausner will work with the various areas as new professional development opportunities are being developed.

Dr. Deak spoke briefly about new graduate student orientation for 2025. The event will be redesigned as a “Welcome Reception” networking event with some short programming. There will be online modules that will be completed beforehand. More details will be provided as they are available.

Dr. Pape asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A member made a motion and another member seconded the motion. All were in favor and none were opposed. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

*****Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2024 ~ 3:30-4:30 p.m. ~ AD-148*****