

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE December 10, 2018 MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

PLACE: Couper Administration Building – Room 148

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

MEMBERS: Manoj Agarwal, David Campbell, Chang Liu (GSO), Paul Chiarot, Nikolay Dimitrov, Robert Guay, Yehrib Hathout, Kimberly Jausi, Matthew Johnson, Adam Laats, Lucky Mason-Williams, Tarun Mastana (GSO), Weiyi Meng, Andreas Pape, Xinye Qiao, Gale Spencer, Douglas Summerville,

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Gretchen Mahler, Sara Reiter

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Christopher Bishop, Peter Borgesen, Mary Beth Curtin, Paul Parker, Nadia Rubaii, Pamela Smart, Nancy Um

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Tarhule called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the October 29, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

III. Report from Committees

Curriculum Committee – Gretchen Mahler presented the report of the curriculum committee's recommendations. The committee reviewed two (2) course proposals.

ANTH 594 – Teaching Laboratory Anthropology – Michael Shamoon-Pour from the Anthropology Department was present to answer questions. This proposal came to Council last month. The course is designed to provide anthropology graduate students with skills required to teach a lab course and train students to work in a lab setting. The course includes training in teaching methods, as well as the basic laboratory and data analysis skills to be taught in educational and research anthropology laboratories. The major concern initially was the amount of time students were spending on the course relative to credit hours. Proposed changes were that students could take the course either as two or four credits commensurate with the amount of time that will be spent inside and outside of the lab. A student may also take the course multiple times. In the previous version, students were required to pay the \$100 course fees each time they took the course. In the revised version, the \$100 fee has been changed to \$100 fee the first time, a student takes the 4 credit class and no fee for the 2 credit course. No further objections were presented and this course proposal was approved by Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council. Department will be notified and course will be created.

MSE 598 – Research Project. Louis Piper, director of the MSE program/Physics Department was in attendance to answer questions. This is the course students will take in MSE when they are completing their MS research project. The course will replace the requirement for a formal research thesis since accelerated students typically do not have sufficient time to properly do a research thesis. A question was raised about whether the lack of a formal thesis could be detrimental to students who chose to do PhD after completing this program. The department does not see believe this would be a problem. No further objections were raised and this course proposal was approved by Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council. Department will be notified and course will be created.

This committee reviewed one (1) proposal to deactivate the Fast-Track MBA program. George Bobinski from the School of Management was available to answer questions. This is for the first time asking to deactivate a track since September 1, 2007. The rationale for the deactivation is that the EMBA is offered in conjunction with the Executive MBA program in NYC in the Optometry School in NYC in order to allow the PME program time to find a new location. In response to a question about the differences between the two programs, Bobinski explained that the EMBA targets a younger group with 3-5 years' experience, while the PMBA targets students with about 8-15 years' experience. The reason for the relocation of one program is the same location a SUNY branch campus designation/approval. This is not a deactivation of the program. The deactivation is designed only to allow time for the program to relocate. The Fast-Track MBA program was approved by Curriculum and Graduate Council. Will move onto next steps (EPPC) and will need to go to SUNY.

Associate Dean, Gretchen Mahler, presented the Curriculum Committee's recommendations for Program Revision Proposals. These are:

1. Business Administration. George Bobinski from School of Management was available to answer questions. The proposed revision will cause the program to exceed the 10% of original approved program so will require resubmission to SUNY. The proposal is to reduce the number of credit hours for the program from 60 to between 51 and 57. The rationale for the change is that the current program is significantly higher than almost all other accredited programs. Specific aspects of the change will include converting four core MBA classes from four-credit hours to three-credit hours. Content in these classes is covered in 3 credit hours by other leading business schools. Associate Dean, George Bobinski explained that the proposed revision had previously been approved by the Graduate Council as part of a larger proposed curriculum change, but the proposal was not implemented at the time because some of the curriculum changes were linked to Harpur programs which had not been registered in a long time, causing the curriculum revision effort to stall. SoM now desires to move forward with this slightly focused revision. The program was approved by Council in past but since it was not completed, it did not continue with the process before. The proposal was approved by Council and Graduate Council. Will move onto next stage. Need to go to SUNY after final campus steps are completed.
2. MBA was the next program discussed. George Bobinski from School of Management was available to answer questions. The proposal is to decrease the number of credit hours at 4 core foundational MBA classes from four-credit hours to three-credit hours. This would bring the total number of credit hours to a minimum of 41 and maximum of 47 credit hours. The students with considerable work experience will register for 41 credits. Students with less experience will register for 47 credits. The proposal is designed for students who are more experienced so fewer credits are required. The proposal was approved by Curriculum and Graduate Council. Will move onto next stage. Need to go to SUNY after final campus steps are completed.
3. Political Science PhD program – David Clark from Political Science was available to answer questions. The proposed change is to ensure that the students are familiar with all three fields. Instead of requiring student specialization, students must take one field-methodology course in each of the three fields. The goal is to ensure core courses for the PhD program in political science completed in 1968. Consequently, incremental changes to the existing program was last registered in 1968. The proposal was approved by Curriculum and Graduate Council. Will move onto next stage. Need to go to SUNY after final campus steps are completed.

4. Material Science and Engineering BS Chemistry/MS Material Science - New program director, Louis Piper, attended to answer questions. The proposal revision is to recruit more students and make the accelerated program comparable with that of the regular MS program. The rationale for the revision is to provide students in the accelerated degree tracks (i.e. 4-1) the same options for degree completion as the regular MS students are offered. Specifically, the students will allow students in the accelerated tracks to do either a MS thesis or MS project. The expectation is that this flexibility will allow the program to attract more students and therefore increase enrollment. This is program overseen by the Office of Professional Studies and therefore, increase enrollment. This proposal was approved and will be forwarded to the FS/EC.
5. Material Science and Engineering BS Physics/MS Material Science. Louis Piper from Physics/MSE was available to answer questions. This proposal is the same as (4) above to recruit more students and make the accelerated program comparable with the one of the regular MS program. Historically this has been offered as a 4+1 but was not completely utilized or advertised. This program was also revised in order to give accelerated students the same options for completion as the regular MS students. The revisions will allow for a culminating event of either a MS thesis or MS project. This is housekeeping to increase students. This is proactive and recommended a change to help move forward and become more straightforward. Was approved by Curriculum and Council. Will go to SUNY once the campus steps are completed.

Academic Standards Committee – Gretchen Mahler presented the recommendation of the ASC on the Policy on deferrals for accelerated students. As background the current policy states if you are a current undergraduate accelerated student and do not want to start graduate school immediately upon graduation, you need to maintain continuance registration. That means you need to stay active, enroll, and pay for one-credit continuance enrollment. The policy was previously presented and reviewed by the Graduate Council in October 2018. Key questions raised at the time included why you cannot continue to count the double credits. The answer is once your record severed from university, in order to get accelerated student and not continue and reapply you cannot reapply for graduate as accelerated student. In response to those questions, the current version of the policy has benefited someone applying from an outside college and our undergraduate students were hurt. Last month the Council had many questions and those have been corrected. This policy would help current accelerated programs like 4+1 or 3+2 students additional time to commit to graduate studies. As it stands now, in order to maintain their accelerated status, a student who does not begin the master's program immediately after graduating with their bachelor's degree needs to be enrolled in a 1-course credit class and pay fees and tuition. This would allow the accelerated student to defer for a year. The policy could potentially help maintain students we may otherwise lose without the 1-year deferral option. If a student is coming from a different school, they have this option and we want a policy that could encourage existing students. Policy was accepted by Curriculum and Graduate Council. The policy will be reflected on the Graduate School webpage.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research – This committee has not met.

Student Affairs/Budget Advisory Committee – This committee met on November 12 and December 3, 2018. Gretchen Mahler presented the recommendations of the committee. The committee reviewed graduate student applications for Benjamin Foundation travel grants. Sixty-three applications were reviewed. Funding requests ranged from \$200 to \$500, most requests were for \$500. Of these, thirty were recommended for funding, with a low of \$245 and a maximum of \$500. Most of the awards were for an amount of \$500.

Dean Tarhule informed the Council that the BF was no longer able to provide funding to support graduate student conference travel. The reason is that the university had reallocated those funds toward the campus campaign. The graduate student travel grants were not the only ones affected by this decision. The Council expressed strong disapproval about the lack of graduate student travel funds. The general sentiment expressed by several speakers was that the lack of conference travel grants at a time when the university has identified graduate student travel as a campus priority is embarrassing and incongruent.

with historic. Student raised included writing a letter to the Provost and President to expressing the Council's strong desire for a solution be found to the lack of travel grants. The final decision was that Council encourage Dean Tarhule to work with the Business Committee to develop a proposal or draft letter to the Provost for Council's review and endorsement.

Dean Tarhule in recognition of the Council that Provost Nier would like the Graduate School to raise the prestige of the Council Student Excellence awards. In response, the Graduate School will be a little different. [Explain how they will be different] The goal is to make graduate student award winners feel appreciated. Dean Tarhule appeared to Council members to help raise awareness about the event to encourage faculty colleagues to attend the Excellence Award ceremony. The date of the awards is March 2019.

Clark Advisory Committee – This committee has not met.

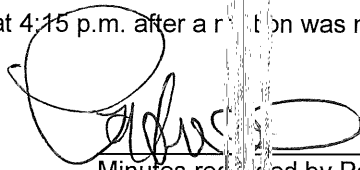
Strategic Planning Committee – This committee has not met.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. after a motion was made by Kimberly Jaussi and seconded by Gale Spence.



Minutes recorded by Patty Gabriel,
Executive Secretary to the Vice Provost and Dean
of the Graduate School