

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

## November 1st, 2023

**Present:** Brooke Belisle, Kimberly Bell, Agnieszka Bialkowska, Elizabeth Boon, Susan Brennan, Kara DeSanna, Michael Ferdman, David Green, Melissa Jordan, Richard Larson, Celia Marshik, Jose Moscoso-Nunez, Brian Nucci, Colleen O'Toole, David Rubenstein, Marcia Simon, Arleen Steckel, Daniel Waxman

**Absent** Lily Blocker, Holly Colognato, Allegra DeLaurentiis, Sonia Harmand, Gianna Juliano-Hooper, Chris Kretz, Hanna Nekvasil

1. Called to order at 2:01pm
2. Review of the Minutes from 10/18/2023
  - a. Corrected the attendance.
  - b. Motion to accept with corrected attendance. Seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. Chair's Report
  - a. Certificate approved for human-centered data science
  - b. SUNY approval received for the letter of intent for creation of a new MA in Political Psychology
4. Policy Updates to Satisfy New Federal Requirements for Enrollment
  - a. To support new federal regulations, the existing policies have proposed changes:
    - i. Registration Policy
    - ii. Course and Credit Enrollment Policy
      1. This avoids requiring permission for out-of-department GRD 700/800, and allows the Graduate School to automatically run GTS reports for the course
      2. Motion to approve 4(a)(i) and 4(a)(ii). Seconded. Approved unanimously.
    - iii. Graduate Tuition Scholarship Eligibility Policy
      1. Anyone under-enrolled in their final semester can now be covered by GTS
      2. Motion to approve 4(a)(iii). Seconded. Approved unanimously.
    - iv. Degree Candidacy Policy
      1. Q: Under what circumstances would master's students graduate without taking credit course work
        - a. A thesis option similar to PhD students, which may be zero credits
    - v. Academic Level Policy
      1. Motion to approve 4(a)(iv) and 4(a)(v). Seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Creation of GRD 700/800 for Policy Updates
    - i. This felt simpler than creating a 1-credit course in each program
    - ii. Q: Who has enrollment permissions?

1. A: Will be open enrollment
  - iii. Q: Currently many students sign up for 0 credits in the program's 800 course in the summer. What will happen now?
    1. A: GRD 700/800 is typically a 1-credit course. If a program's 800 course is set up for variable credits, this can also be used. GRD 700/800 is just designed to avoid each program having to set this up.
  - iv. Q: What happens if a student doesn't enroll?
    1. A: For international students, this causes visa problems, so there should be emphasis on correctly enrolling. For domestic students, there aren't major repercussions, but they should still enroll as per the policy.
  - v. This also simplifies GTS, since the Graduate School will run their own report on GRD 700/800
  - vi. For GRD 800 description will be changed from: "This course is intended to help satisfy immigration requirements." to "This course is intended to help satisfy graduation and immigration requirements."
- c. Required for domestic and international PhD students. Not required for domestic master's students. PhD students who receive a tuition scholarship will have the 1 credit covered.

#### 5. Informational HBBMS Update

- a. Kara DeSanna and David Rubenstein met with a SUNY representative to determine the best way forward.
- b. Four tracks will be closed, and five will seek to be disaggregated and become new programs.

#### 6. Chair's Report

- a. The Nursing proposal will be ready very soon.
- b. GCAC has student members now
- c. Faculty on GCAC will need to appoint a chair and move forward

#### 7. Dean's Report

- a. A New Graduate Student Orientation platform is being introduced
  - i. Same platform as undergraduate orientation
  - ii. Some videos and quizzes, including from GSO and the graduate student union
- b. First Name Unknown (FNU) Designation
  - i. There was a small population of students at the undergraduate and graduate level who didn't have first names easily recognizable in submitted documents
    1. Stony Brook would make their first name FNU (on emails, etc.)
    2. Now, students can submit their names and this will be corrected
- c. Re: Israel-Gaza conflict: this is difficult to navigate for everyone involved. President McInnis sent out more communications. The Graduate School is committed to defending graduate students' rights.
- d. 12 programs are being given funding for updating master's programs

- e. Elizabeth Boon has a rough draft of a mentoring compact. It is being worked on by the Graduate School, and the goal is to have it ready for the spring semester
- f. There is a Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee, which will soon become part of the University Senate. One of the committee members attended a Graduate School mentoring workshop and proposed the drafting of a minimum mentoring responsibility document
- g. Q: For the Graduate Council Fellowship, all programs are restricted to 3 nominees, which creates difficulties for departments with more than 3 programs – why is that?
  - i. Reducing the number of nominations reduced the workload for the committee.
  - ii. Follow-up Q: some departments are much larger than others and have several programs. Would a tiered system make sense?
    - 1. A: Possibly, this will be considered.

8. Motion to adjourn at 3:05pm. Seconded. Approved unanimously.