

GRADUATE COUNCIL

It is the mandate of the Graduate Council to “advise the Dean of the Graduate School and monitor all aspects of the University's graduate program. It will evaluate all proposed new graduate programs and degrees and will participate in program review of existing graduate programs.” “New graduate programs and changes to existing programs must be approved by the Graduate Council, SUNY Central in Albany and registered with the State Education Department (SED). Proposals that have resource implications (e.g., need for new faculty) will also need approval of the appropriate College Dean before Graduate Council consideration.”

Towards this end the GC has conducted evaluations and has advised the Dean on revisions to approved programs and requests to establish new programs. Evaluations are based on needs, resource availability, and impact on current programs, admission requirements and students to be served.

The requests include:

- Letters of Intent to establish new degree programs,
- Program Revisions (name changes, new tracks, changes to curriculum),
- Program Proposals,
- Program Disaggregation

The GC also evaluates and makes recommendations related to

- changes in policy (language requirements, publication of dissertations, cut-off dates for graduation, composition of dissertation committees, etc.)
- quality of student life (housing, stipends, lecture series, etc.)
- graduate student fellowships
- course evaluations

There is a Graduate Council Appeals Committee (GCAC) which when requested by the Dean of the Graduate School reviews documents and makes recommendations related to student appeals of program decisions. The committee comprises two faculty members appointed by the GC and two students appointed by the GSO. A third faculty member serves as an alternate.

When needed ad hoc subcommittees are formed to research and address pressing issues. These subcommittees present findings and appropriate documents for discussion by the GC.

GOALS:

- Evaluate New and Revised Programs
- Improve Student Quality of Life
- Evaluate New Teaching Modalities
- Evaluate Ongoing Programs

Graduate Council
Annual Report
(September 2017 to Mar 14, 2018)

Committee Members: Brenda Anderson (Psychology/Graduate Council Chair), Hongshik Ahn (Applied Mathematics & Statistics), Sarah Battaglia (Occupational Therapy), Jackie Collier (SoMAS), Allegra De Laurentiis (Philosophy), Martha Furie (Pathology), Kathleen Kasten (Libraries), Dmytro Holod* (School of Business), Michael Kifer (Computer Science), Andreas Koenig (IDPAS), Mary Rawlinson (Phi/CLCS), Annie Rohan (School of Nursing), David Talmage (Pharmacology)

Nonvoting Participants: Diane Bello (Registrar), Jane York (Graduate School), Melissa Jordan (Graduate School), Colleen O'Toole (Graduate School), Arleen Steckel (Volunteer Faculty), Karen Wishnia (GSO), Camillo Rubini (GSO; Fall 2018) Xiaoqing Zhang (GSO; Spring 2019).

*Note, we have added a representative from the School of Business

Cognate Administrator: Richard Gerrig (Interim Dean, Graduate School)

Senate Executive Committee Liaison: Camilo Rubbini

During the 2018/2019 academic year, the Graduate Council met 8 times in the fall of 2018: September 4 and 26, October 2 and 16, November 6 and 20 and December 4 and 18. In the Spring of 2019, we met on February 4, and Mar 4, Mar 25. We plan 3-4 more meetings in April and May.

The major initiatives undertaken by the GC are summarized below:

Evaluated Requests for Programmatic Changes and New Programs

- Revisions/Disaggregations
 - MS in Clinical Research
 - PhD in Sociology
 - MS in Science Journalism
 - PhD in English
 - IACS Advanced Certification
 - PhD in SoMAS
 - MA in Health Administration

- New Programs
 - No new programs have been proposed this year

The GCAC has reviewed only two appeals cases (SPD).

Discussions:

- A subcommittee developed a draft for addressing academic dishonesty
- Concerns about staffing shortages affecting graduate education
- Discussion about reduction in TOEFL scores for admission of MA and MS students
- Obtained approval for representative from the School of Business on the Graduate Council
- Suspension of Disability Studies
- Possibility of no longer requiring GRE scores for admission
- TOEFL requirements when international students attended a University where English is the primary language of instruction.
- Intellectual Property statement for the MFA in Writing
- Authorship guidelines
- Addition of Sociology graduate program at SUNY Korea