

Graduate Council Annual Report 2021-2022

Mandate and activities

The mandate of the Graduate Council is to advise the Dean of the Graduate School, and monitor all aspects of the University's graduate program. If a Dean is not available, the Council will work closely with the Associate Deans of the Graduate School, and send input to either a Vice Provost for Graduate Education or the Provost, and continue to monitor all aspects of the University's graduate program.

The Graduate Council evaluates 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).

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

In the last two years, we have also taken on the role of reviewing Microcredentials, which fall outside of our mandate to advise the Dean. In this case, we are advising the Provost.

Members:

Voting members:

CEAS representative; Hongshik Ahn (Applied Math and Statistics), Michael Ferdman (Computer Sciences)

Health Sciences: Martha Furie (Pathology), Marcia Simon (Oral Biology & Pathology)

Humanities & Fine Arts representative: Kathleen Vernon (Hispanic Languages and Literature),

Mary Rawlinson (Philosophy-Fall 2021)/Allegra DeLaurentis (Philosophy-Spring 2022)

SBS representative: Brenda Anderson (Chair, Psychology), Sonia Harmand (Anthropology),

COB representative: Lily Blocker (College of Business),

Natural Sciences Representative: Holly Colognato (Mol Cell Pharmacology),

Staff representative: Jennifer Kuhl (Nursing),

Library representative: Kathleen Kasten-Mutkus (on leave)

Arleen Steckel (Volunteer Faculty)

Cognate Administrator: Eric Wertheimer (Dean, Graduate School)
Executive Committee Liaisons: Alan Tucker, Kenneth MacDowell

GSO Representatives: Alexandra Checkers (also serving as Graduate Advocate), Donal Thomas.

Additional Guests:

Graduate School: Miguel Garcia-Diaz (Assoc Dean), Melissa Jordan, Colleen O'Toole, David Rubenstein (Assoc Dean)

Diane Bello (Registrar's Office), Kara DeSanna (Provost Liaison), Elizabeth Newman (Vice Provost, Curriculum), Robert Mangione (SPD), Patricia Malone (SPD), Lori Lyons (SPD-Fall 2021), Dawn Medley (ERM, Spring 2022), Maria Campanella (ERM, Spring 2022)

Subcommittees/Volunteers:

Graduate Council Appeals Committee: 2 members, +1 back up for the GC Appeals Committee; 2 GSO representatives for the Appeals Committee

2 members split the responsibility of serving on the GCF and Awards Committees.

Representative for the Academic Judiciary Committee

Representative on the Graduate Tuition Policy Working Group

Chair serves on Graduate School Curriculum Review Team with the Dean, Associate Deans, Colleen O'Toole, and Kara DeSanna.

Activities 2021-2022

Program Proposal and Review:

Letter of Intent: MA in Media/Arts/Culture/Technology

New Program Proposal: Decision Analytics, QIST

Revisions: MS and PhD in SoMAS, MM and DMA of Music

Format Change Form: MA in English, MA in TSM, Journalism

Non-substantive change: Psychology, Music, Nursing, MA/PHD Music, MPH, IACS, MPH

Discontinuation: Accelerated version of Geospatial Sciences Advanced Certificate

Microcredentials: credit-bearing: Student Advising and Counseling, Leadership and Operations, Coaching in Athletics, Athletics Administration, Student

Development Technology and Distance Learning, Higher Ed
Administration/Student Affairs

Policy Changes:

As admissions moved to Enrollment Management, the policies remain under the control of the Graduate School. Enrollment Management addresses the mechanics of admissions. Matriculation and program progress is under management of the Graduate School.

Full-time status now 9 credits for all students as of Spring 2022, approved

Academic Mis-Conduct Policy, approved

Leave of Absence Policy, approved

Graduate Program Bylaws required and guidelines provided, approved

Update of Family Medical Leave Policy, approved, but this has not been adopted by the institution.

Concerns about change in LIN 544 to a CEE course. This was addressed by Patricia Malone, but it is unclear which senate committee would oversee when a course in GS is converted to a new course in SPD. GC doesn't review syllabi beyond looking for the four items, grade weighting, grading scale, learning objectives, schedule.

Appeals cases: 1 case

Reports:

Kane Gillespie reported on the use of the President's Dissertation Completion Funds

William Warren, VP for Marketing and Communications, reported on his plans for Marketing and Communications

Monica Bugallo, Interim Provost, Richard Larson, Senate President announced a Working Group on Graduate Education. Provided the Graduate Council the opportunity to respond to proposed membership.

Karian Wright reported on the CIE, including their activities, staffing, challenges.

Judi Browne-Clark, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, shared her vision for the Center of Inclusive Education.

Change in policy to require use of international transcripts evaluation services.

Discussion of the use of Duolingo; Aurelie Vialette, Hispanic Languages and Literature provided a comment on this proposal. No vote was taken.

Rose Martinelli, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Graduate Tuition Scholarship Policy, Approved.

Update on faculty/union movement to develop an open letter to express concern over the Graduate School and CIE.