

# Grad Council Minutes

March 7th, 2024

**Present:** Brooke Belise, Kimberly R. Bell, Agnieszka Bialkowska, Elizabeth Boon, Susan E. Brennan, Holly Colognato, Kara Mallory DeSanna, Melissa L. Jordan, Chris B. Kretz, Celia J. Marshik, Jose Alberto Moscoso Nunez, Colleen O'Toole, David A. Rubenstein, Marcia Simon, Kristen E. Shorette, Arleen Steckel, Daniel Waxman,

**Absent:** Brenda J. Anderson, Lily Blocker, Michael Ferdman, David Green, Gianna M. Juliano-Hooper, Brian J. Nucci

1. Meeting called to order at 1:01pm
2. Review of the minutes from the February 22, 2024 meeting
  - a. Motion to accept with minor grammatical corrections. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. New Business
  - a. New Accelerated Degree in Africana Studies (AFS) and Masters in Public Health (MPH) (local review only)
    - i. Similar to other accelerated programs. Shares 15 credits between undergraduate and graduate programs. All MPH credits are completed.
    - ii. Motion to approve as-is. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Draft of Stony Brook Graduate School Mentoring Compact [\[link\]](#)
    - i. The idea is for an advisor and advisee to meet at the beginning of their mentor-mentee relationship and review this compact
    - ii. Similar to minimum mentorship responsibilities, but provides discussion topics
    - iii. The second piece, which will be a form, is fillable and serves as a worksheet
      1. Includes topics such as communication standards, feedback mechanisms, how difficult conversations will be handled, etc. Suggested to be completed ~yearly.
    - iv. Not mandated for now
    - v. Re-envisioning the website as a centralized resource
      1. Will ask for piloting voluntarily, and will seek funding for a more formal study
    - vi. Q: Has the current environment been surveyed? How will it interact with current mentoring practice, e.g., voluntary IDPs?
      1. A: There is some existing research from CIE and faculty on-campus. The Graduate School would like to obtain funding for a formal study of this.
  - c. Biochemistry and Cell Biology: appeal for student admission

- i. Previously, the Graduate School (with approval of the Graduate Council) changed policy so that students from an English-speaking institution or are from a US territory do not require TOEFL scores
    - ii. If students who do not require scores submit them anyway, and they are well below the requirements for admission, the practice has been to reject them. This revision would turn this practice into the official policy.
    - iii. The new language enforces any submitted score, regardless of an applicant's requirement to submit the score
    - iv. Motion to approve the revised policy. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
    - v. Q: When will Graduate School not accept a program's recommendation
      - 1. A: The typical reasons are falsified or missing documents, or falling below posted minimum admissions requirements
  - d. MS in finance (Curriculum Change + STEM Designation; full SUNY/NYSED review)
    - i. New courses have been added for a more quantitative focus to reflect the CID code change
    - ii. From Kara DeSanna: This will likely include the STEM designation form as an addendum
    - iii. Motion to approve the changes. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - e. Disaggregating the HBBMS (MS in Biomedical Sciences) program
    - i. From David Rubenstein: the HBBMS disaggregation process is moving forward, having obtained the necessary approvals.
4. Old Business
- a. Continued Discussion on Proposed Update to Minimum Mentorship Responsibilities
    - i. No updates.
  - b. Continued Discussion on Graduate Bulletin for Dissertation Committees
    - i. No updates.
5. Dean's Report
- a. Invitation to the 3MT (three minute thesis)
  - b. The First Grad School newsletter was sent yesterday
  - c. Katie Flint Ehm (Dean of Professional Development) will be taking a position at NSF for a year. The Graduate School has asked the directors of that unit, and associate deans, to help in keeping things running smoothly
  - d. Updates on application statistics
    - i. Applications are up over past years
      - 1. Nearly all growth comes from doctoral growth. Masters applications are generally declining.
6. Motion to adjourn at 2:30pm. Seconded. Approved unanimously.