

Graduate Council Minutes | 10/04/2023

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

Absent: Brooke Belisle, Lily Blocker, Holly Colognato, Allegra DeLaurentiis, Michael Ferdman, Sonia Harmand, Gianna Juliano-Hooper, Hanna Nekvasil

1. Called to order at 2:03pm
2. Review of the Minutes from 09/20/2023
 - a. Fixed a minor spelling mistake
 - b. Motion to accept. Seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. Old Business
 - a. GCAC requires an additional member
 - i. An additional volunteer was found
4. Dean's Report
 - a. Elizabeth Boon officially started as the new Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives
 - i. As a faculty, she has experience running training grants and DEI initiatives, and is interested in expanding this experience to other disciplines to help best train graduate students
 - b. AAU Graduate Deans meeting
 - i. Good opportunity to gain perspective from other universities and their graduate programs
 - ii. Among other things, attended useful discussions regarding recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on race-conscious admissions, graduate student stipends, and scalability
 - c. GPD retreat on Friday
 - i. Session on admissions
 1. e.g., around SCOTUS decision and SUNY guidance
 2. Several new GPDs talking about rubrics
 - ii. Working lunch on different topics, including program curriculum updates
 - iii. Continuing an active effort to make the retreats an active workshop rather than lectures
5. Program Updates from Kara DeSanna
 - a. MS in decision analytics approved by NYSED
 - b. SUNY has rolled out new curriculum management software, effective immediately.
 - i. This shouldn't affect anyone outside the Provost's Office right now
6. New Business

- a. New Accelerated Degree Proposal BS/MS in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
 - i. Relatively new process for combined programs
 - 1. Allows for expedited processing of combined programs, without the explicit permission of SUNY/NYSED
 - 2. B.S. is in Biochemistry, not in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
 - 3. Question: regarding the electives list, with MCB 520 (required) and CHE 541 (nearly identical, allowed elective)
 - a. These aren't exclusive in the bulletin; the Graduate School to ask MCB and CHE to make them exclusive
 - b. This therefore doesn't affect the proposal
 - ii. Q: Course conflicts seem like they may be a problem – does this make 5-year completion particularly challenging?
 - 1. A: There's planning involved on behalf of the program to make sure this is possible
 - iii. Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Overview of process for HBBMS and Dated Program Re-registration
 - i. HBBMS "tracks" may want to make changes and will likely have to go through a disaggregation process to become distinct programs
 - ii. Some are asking for their "tracks" to be permanently closed (once any remaining students finish)
 - 1. Two tracks want to be closed; five tracks wish to be registered as their own degree program; two tracks haven't yet decided
 - 2. These will come through the Graduate Council
 - 3. Kara DeSanna will consult with NYS to determine if further approvals are required
 - iii. ~20 dated programs have been contacted
 - 1. If there are no changes, the GC will reaffirm they are in compliance
 - 2. Minor changes that don't reach the necessity of SUNY approval will be reviewed with a memo
 - 3. Major changes will require a new proposal
 - iv. Review of Political Science MA Degree (last reviewed by NYS in 1990, local approval only for verification of compliance)
 - 1. This program is separate from the MA in Public Policy, and only admits PhD students
 - 2. Q: Does approval now give a new date of registration?
 - a. A: This is for local record-keeping purposes only. It provides more time before full SUNY review is required.
 - 3. Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
7. Motion to adjourn at 2:53pm. Seconded. Approved unanimously.