

# Graduate Council Minutes February 08, 2024

**Present:** Brenda J. Anderson, Kimberly R Bell, Agnieszka Bialkowska, Lily Blocker, Elizabeth Boon, Susan E. Brennan, Holly Colognato, Amy Cook, Melissa L. Jordan, Kara Mallory DeSanna, Michael Ferdman, David Green, Celia J. Marshik, Colleen O'Toole, David A. Rubenstein, Marcia Simon, Kristen E. Shorette, Arleen Steckel

**Absent:** Brooke Belise, Gianna M. Juliano-Hooper, Chris B. Kretz, Jose Alberto Moscoso Nunez, Brian J. Nucci, Daniel Waxman

- Meeting called to order at 1:02
  
- Introduction of new Graduate Council members Kristen Shorette (Sociology) replacing Sonia Harmand and Brenda Anderson replacing Richard Larson (Senate liaison)
  
- Reviewed the Minutes from the December 13, 2023 meeting. No corrections were suggested. A motion to approve was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- Chair's report:
  - o Requested volunteer for the Graduate Awards Committee (volunteer received)
  - o Note from Kara Desana: NYSED approved the revision to the PhD in Nursing
  - o Awaiting clarification on potential changes to Graduate Council membership
  
- Discussed revisions to PhD in Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering. The requested program revisions include adding a discrete research requirement, removing the qualifying exam, removing the Masters specific track, and increasing the number of credits required from 45 to 60. In addition, the grading policy allowing a D for a graduate student grade was discussed. Although allowed by NYS (confirmed by Kara DeSanna), it was suggested that the D grade be eliminated.
  - o Motion to approve the program revisions with the elimination of the D-grade was made and seconded and the proposed changes to the PhD in CE and EE passed unanimously.
  
- Discussed the recommendation for graduate programs to develop bylaws for program faculty membership that include criteria for selection, assessment, and revocation of membership. Grievance policy, the possibility of probation and a statement that graduate students should be treated with respect was also suggested.

- A motion to approve was made and seconded and the vote on the proposed changes to the graduate bulletin passed unanimously.
- Discussed revisions to the MS in Science Communication. The revisions include renaming the degree to an MS in Communication with two tracks (Science Communication and Climate Communication) having the same six core courses. Some discussion ensued on how best to show the common core courses, but changes were not required. There was also a question raised as to whether students in the program would have sufficient background for the courses given by SOMAS. It was decided that the students are sufficiently prepared.
  - A motion to approve was made and seconded and the vote on the proposed revisions to generate the MS in Science Communication with two tracks passed unanimously.
- Dean's report
  - The Graduate School staff have been busy processing registrations, dismissals, and applications as well as organizing GC fellowship vetting.
  - The university has been signing contracts with international recruiters, which is a standard practice of many of our institutional peers. These recruiters have started engagement with our campus by focusing on undergraduate recruitment; working with them on graduate recruitment will require some changes to our current processes at the program level. The Dean of the Graduate School will begin communicating with departments and programs this semester so they can consider how to move forward with recruiters if desired.
  - The GSEU has begun bargaining its next contract, which covers state-funded TAs, GAs, and RAs, with SUNY. The Graduate School has been working to provide SUNY with information the union requested to inform those contract negotiations.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM