

Draft Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council meeting of October 7, 2020, 8:30 AM via Zoom meeting.

Approved by the Council by vote of 10-0-0 on November 4, 2020.

In attendance: G. Berg (Chair), S. Appe, D. Card, A. Dawson, A. Gill, S. Faight, O. Lunin, R. Morse, E. Pacer, K.N. Stanwicks, C. Wolff, K. Williams (ex officio member), C. Davis (staff), S. Kent (staff), J. Deden (staff)

Guests: Christy Smith – Assistant Dean for Academics and Assessment, School of Education
Zina Lawrence – Assistant Dean, Director, Full-time MBA program, School of Business
Rachel French – Assistant Registrar, Registrar’s Office
Sean Pease – Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions Services, Graduate School
Jane Champagne – Director of Graduate Admissions, Graduate School

1. Approval and/or update of this GAC Agenda – GAC will move the Program Proposals from the School of Education to the first item of business.
2. School of Education Program Proposals Review – Christy Smith, Assistant Dean, School of Education: Dr. Smith and Colleen Davis reviewed the proposals that normally would go to the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction but are being covered directly with GAC in the interest of moving them along in the approval process.
 - a. Physics BS/Secondary Education Master of Science (MSSE) degree Combined Undergraduate/Graduate program proposal – this is part of last year’s group of new combined undergraduate majors with the graduate MSSE program.
 - b. Secondary Education Master of Science – Distance Learning Proposal – the purpose is to add distance learning format permanently to the Secondary Education MS programs, for possible future use and compliance with NYS Education requirements.
With minor spelling edits, the GAC approved the two proposals (a and b) above, by a vote of 11-0-0.
 - c. Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology Master of Science Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SUNY Cobleskill – creating a combined program for undergraduate students in the Early Childhood Education BS program at Cobleskill and the Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology MS program at UAlbany. GAC requests that School of Education continue to keep the Graduate School informed of any changes to the MoU as it goes through the approval process with other offices. The Registrar’s Office proposed amended language with regard to transcripts needing student’s authorization to be sent.
The GAC approved this proposal as amended, by a vote of 11-0-0
3. Introductions – Chair Berg led the introductions of the council and guest staff. He welcomed the new members and encouraged all to participate in all facets of Senate business for the benefit of the University.

4. Review of the minutes of the GAC meeting of 5/8/2020 – The Council approved the minutes with the spelling change, by a vote of 11-0-0.
5. Dean's Report – Graduate Dean Kevin Williams extended his welcome to all. He commented on how the long hours and hard work of the Academic Continuity Group (ACG) has produced a better-than-expected Fall semester for students and faculty. The Spring 2021 semester will look similar to the Fall 2020 semester's framework. 75% of University at Albany courses are fully online this semester. ACG is requesting and gathering feedback from faculty and students for suggested improvements to be applied for Spring 2021's rollout. Present procedures have been successful in containing COVID-19 so that University at Albany has not had to 'pause'.

Dean Williams also thanked the ad hoc committee's work on and Council's review of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Report. The report the committee submitted has been well received by the Senate and he will share it with the graduate directors and possibly with off-campus parties who could benefit from it. Dean Williams fielded questions from the members of the Council regarding the proposal.

6. Chair's Report – George Berg discussed and recommended reading the GRE report. He stressed the high value of the GAC on campus in addressing the University's goals of being student-focused and addressing Graduate and research concerns. GAC is not just for service or as a reactive body, but is addressing real needs. He encouraged all to bring to the council any issues that they feel need addressing. NYSED has extended distance education flexibility which will increase the Council's business of this semester.
Though the Senate outlines a Student Association (SA)(undergraduate) representative on the GAC, that position has not been filled in the recent past.
7. GAC Standing Committees and Chairs for 2020-21
 - a. Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CC&I) needs more members. Council members were encouraged to speak to teaching faculty colleagues for possible recruitment. Chair Berg offered his assistance in recruitment. Emails will go out to previous members and department heads.
 - b. Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing (CA&AS) sufficiently staffed. Members encouraged to consider move to CC&I.
 - c. A vote for Sydney Faught as chair of CC&I and Kabel Stanwicks as chair of CA&AS was passed 10-0-1.
8. School of Business - Digital Forensic and Cyber Security MS program's wording of culminating program requirement- (This is an FYI – not an actionable item) Colleen Davis and Zina Lawrence reviewed the Graduate Bulletin change of the wording to the culminating requirement for DFCS-MS program, from 'Thesis/Internship' to 'Research/Internship'. No true thesis course has ever existed in the program.

Meeting adjourned without opposition at 9:50 am

Future GAC meetings for Fall 2020:

Wednesday 11/4/, 8:30AM, via Zoom

Wednesday, 12/2/20, 8:30AM, via Zoom

University at Albany, SUNY

Graduate Academic Council 2020-21 - Membership Roster (as of 10/1/20)

- Gill, Andrew – GSA – Philosophy, CAS
- Card, Dylan – GSA – Atmospheric Science, CAS
- Pacer, Emily – GSA – Environmental Health Science, Public Health
- Dawson, Alec – TF – History, CAS
- Lunin, Oleg – TF – Physics, CAS
- Stanwicks, Kabel – TF – University Libraries
- Morse, Randy – TF – Public Health
- Wolff, Christopher – TF – Anthropology, CAS
- Appe, Susan – TF - Rockefeller
- Berg, George (GAC Chair) – TF - CEHC
- Faught, Sydney – PF – Registrar’s Office
- Williams, Kevin (ex officio) – Dean, Graduate School

- Davis, Colleen – staff – Graduate School
- Kent, Shanise – staff – Graduate School
- Deden, Julie – staff – Graduate School

Graduate Academic Council
 2020 – 2021
 As of 10-1-2020. Chairs approved 10-7-2020

Committee Memberships
Draft for GAC consideration

GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)
Assistant Graduate School Dean Colleen Davis, staff.

Susan Appe	Teaching Faculty	Public Administration & Policy	GAC Member
Sydney Faught **	Professional Staff	Registrar’s Office	GAC Member
Dylan Card	PhD Student	Earth & Atmospheric Science	GAC Member
Andrew Gill	PhD Student	Philosophy	GAC Member

GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CA&AS)
Assistant Graduate School Dean Shanise Kent, staff

Oleg Lunin	Teaching Faculty	Physics	GAC Member
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Kabel Stanwicks	Teaching Faculty	University Libraries	GAC Member **
Emily Pacer	PhD Student	Environmental Health Sciences	GAC Member
Chris Wolff	Teaching Faculty	Anthropology	GAC Member
Alec Dawson	Teaching Faculty	History	GAC Member
Sylvia Roch	Teaching Faculty	Psychology	Returning Volunteer

** willing to chair

Potentially addition to one of the committees:

Randall Morse	Teaching Faculty	Biomedical Sciences	GAC Member
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Extra Notes on Proposals:

Physics BS/Secondary Education MS: The Educational Theory and Practice Department is proposing a combined undergraduate/graduate program for the Physics BS and Secondary Education MS program. Similar combined programs were approved for the Secondary Education MS program in Spring 2020. This proposal adds the Physics BS as an option.

Secondary Education MS Distance Education Format: The Educational Theory and Practice Department is requesting that Distance Education be added to the current program. Each content area is registered as its own program with NYSED, which is why there are so many proposals to consider.

Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology MS Program MOU: The Educational Theory and Practice Department is proposing a combined undergraduate/graduate MOU with SUNY Cobleskill. Admitted undergraduate students in the appropriate major will be able to pursue the CDIT MS program as a combined undergraduate/graduate program. The standard policies apply to the students. This MOU is similar to the existing MOUs established in Rockefeller College and various institutions.