

## Graduate Council Minutes | 11/29/2023

**Present:** Brooke Belisle, Kimberly Bell, Agnieszka Bialkowska, Lily Blocker, Elizabeth Boon, Susan Brennan, Kara DeSanna, Michael Ferdman, 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** Holly Colognato, Allegra DeLaurentiis, Sonia Harmand, Gianna Juliano-Hooper, Hanna Nekvasil

1. Meeting called to order at 2:01pm
2. Review of the minutes from 11/15/2023
  - a. Amended attendance
  - b. Motion to accept. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. New SUNY Korea Proposal
  - a. For an MS in data science, to be offered on the SUNY Korea campus. This will require a full state review
  - b. The proposed course and admissions requirements are the same as the program on the Stony Brook campus, as required by SUNY policy
  - c. Requesting two new faculty, but no commitment letter.
    - i. Possibly have enough faculty to cover without new appointments, and no issues anticipated hiring faculty
    - ii. SUNY does not require a commitment letter for review, but requires some symbol of intent (e.g., the commitment letter, or a job posting).
    - iii. Kara DeSanna will double-check that the Provost's Office is aware of these commitments
  - d. This program is anticipated to be revenue-generating
  - e. Admissions requirements are the same as for SBU programs, so e.g., same TOEFL scores are required
  - f. Q: If needed, would we offer an online version of SBU courses so people could fulfill their requirements?
    - i. A: It could be considered, but logistics are difficult; few courses are hybrid, the SUNY Korea program should remain independent, and time differences cause issues. Makes more sense for something like a special topics course.
  - g. Main issue: what is the resource stream to hire new faculty, and is there documentation available?
    - i. Kara DeSanna will ask the Provost's office
    - ii. Dave Rubenstein will also ask for clarification from the program
  - h. Tabled until the next meeting pending further information from Kara and Dave.
4. Recertification of MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering
  - a. For local review only, last reviewed by the state in 1976 and 1994, respectively
  - b. For the MS Degree:

- i. Changed allowable number of research credits in MS thesis (up to 9, from 6)
    - ii. Added a 0-credit seminar course which is required
    - iii. Must take a minimum of 15 credits within MEC
    - iv. Discussion on whether this requires SUNY review.
    - v. **Tabled until the next meeting.**
  - c. PhD
    - i. Similar change with a 0-credit seminar course
    - ii. Teaching requirement is now documented
    - iii. Used to require “a math course”; now have a specific course required (MEC 507)
- 5. Recertification of MA, MS and PhD in Physics
  - a. For local review only, last reviewed by the state in 1990, 2010 and 2012, respectively
  - b. For the MA degree:
    - i. “Pass masters examination” -> “pass qualifying exam at the master’s level or complete a master’s project”
      - 1. In line with SUNY requirements
  - c. MS and PhD have no changes
  - d. **Motion to reaffirm the PhD in MEC, and the MA/MS/PhD in physics. Seconded. Approved unanimously.**
- 6. Dean’s Report
  - a. Last year, voted to change the language policy to not require TOEFL scores for people from US territories
    - i. Permanent residents were not included. The Graduate School would like to treat this as an omission; would this require a vote from the Graduate Council?
      - 1. **Motion to include permanent residents with citizens. Seconded. Approved unanimously.**
    - ii. Q: Students have to pay for IELTS/TOEFL, but what about Duolingo?
      - 1. A: In the current bulletin. Thresholds are not listed because the evaluation process is different.
  - b. Stony Brook is moving forward with several international recruitment contracts
    - i. SBU has not historically moved forward with these contracts, but has become increasingly important for international recruitment.
  - c. Postdoc spotlight was the Thursday before Thanksgiving
    - i. Went well, well-attended.
  - d. Have been reaching out to several different programs
    - i. Chemistry Program, New Faculty Orientation, Emerging Leaders Program
    - ii. Will bring up that GC has open seats for a humanities representative and social and behavioral sciences representative
  - e. STEM Grad Education retreat in January
    - i. Focused on lab culture for underrepresented students

- ii. The last Council of Graduate Schools showed that underrepresented students in STEM have decreased
  - iii. Probably ½ day event
  - f. Next week, Celia will go to the Council of Graduate Schools Winter Meeting
7. Motion to adjourn at 3:18pm. Seconded. Approved unanimously.