

**University Faculty Senate  
Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee  
Year End Report**

### Committee Charge

The Committee serves as a source of professional advice and guidance to the Senate on matters relating to the quality, operation, and encouragement of graduate programs and research. To these ends, the committee may be concerned with the procedures, criteria, and support of existing and new graduate programs within the University. The Committee may review and recommend policies and procedures relating to moral and ethical concerns of research and graduate studies and other matters involving support and furtherance of research and graduate studies within the University.

### Committee Members 2020-2021

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#### **Research Foundation Liaison**

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#### **SUNY Staff Liaisons**

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#### **Student Liaison**

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### Committee Goals for 2020-21

- Graduate Student Showcase at the Legislative Office Building.
- SUNY Virtual Research Day.
- Graduate Student Grant Writing Training Seminars.
- International Graduate Student Visas.
- Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (EID) in Graduate Education.
- Living and Learning Through COVID.

## Committee accomplishments this year

- SUNY Virtual Research Day.
  - The goal of this endeavor is to organize a SUNY-wide research conference wherein graduate students have the opportunity to present their research to a diverse audience of SUNY faculty and students. A subcommittee met with Lisa Raposo from SUNY to discuss available platforms for hosting such an event. Several possible platforms were proposed and it was also brought to the committee's attention that the SURC conference will employ one such platform. Our committee has been invited to attend SURC and assess the suitability of such a platform for our needs. The committee will subsequently focus on developing a conference format with the ultimate goal of scheduling the virtual research day for the Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 semester.
- Graduate Student Grant Writing Training Seminars.
  - The goal of this endeavor is to develop training webinars to help students write more competitive NIH grant proposals. Dr. Miguel Garcia-Diaz from Stony Brook University has recently recorded two instructional webinars for the F30 and F31 NIH fellowship programs, which were subsequently professionally edited and made available SUNY-wide.
- International Graduate Student Visas.
  - The visa renewal process was adversely affected by COVID-19 and new governmental restrictions. The committee was made aware of graduate students experiencing difficulties renewing their visas. The subcommittee was tasked with identifying ways that SUNY can petition the federal government to ease visa renewal roadblocks. Following the fall planning meeting, the Chancellor of SUNY released a press release focusing on the topic of student visas and espousing SUNY's commitment to its international student body. The committee believes that SUNY's united response to the visa issue has accomplished the committee's original goals for this endeavor.
- Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (EID) in Graduate Education.
  - A subcommittee was tasked with collaborating with the EID committee on the topic of whether and how EID principles can be integrated into graduate coursework and/or graduate programs.
- Living and Learning Through COVID.
  - Working with graduate student deans, this subcommittee was tasked with organizing focus groups to assess learning outcomes of graduate students and adult learners post-COVID19. Since the fall planning meeting, numerous surveys and teaching best practices have emerged from SUNY campuses and SUNY central. Therefore, the committee will no longer focus on this agenda item.