

University Faculty Senate

Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee

Martin Kaczocha

Fall Planning Meeting, Syracuse

September 12-13, 2019

Summary and Action Plan

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

Martin Kaczocha (Chair, Stony Brook), M. Scott Goodman (Buffalo State), Asif Ahmed (SUNY Poly), Eric Eisenbraun (SUNY Poly), Elizabeth Bradley (ESC), Michael Figuccio (Farmingdale), Lee Graham (Oneonta), Jennifer Rosseland-Bates (UB), Katherine Thweatt (Oswego), Laura Martello-Rooney (Downstate), Samir Haj-Dahmane (UB), Sergios-Orestis Kolokotronis (Downstate), Kathleen Caggiano-Siino (SUNY RF), Ann Hawkins (SUNY)

Agenda Items for 2019-2020

Graduate Student Research Showcase in Albany. The graduate student showcase will take place some time in late **February** (Jim Campbell helps organize it). Potential topics include post-disaster management, effect of global warming on disease prevalence in NYS (e.g., lyme disease), artificial intelligence, marijuana legalization, invasive species, and effects of social media on misinformation/disinformation. The subcommittee will work with Jim on issues including but not limited to topic and student selection.

Subcommittee: Elizabeth, Kathleen, Ann, Sergios, Martin

Graduate Incentive Program. Following the success of the pilot program and the resolution passed by the UFS, SUNY is launching the Chancellor's Graduate Research Scholarship. The goal of the program is to provide a \$5000 one time bonus to graduate and undergraduate students who successfully compete for federal fellowships. Our committee will help shepherd the scholarship program and enhance its chances of success by focusing on two areas: 1) Advertising and 2) Systemic training resources.

Advertising Subcommittee: Scott, Samir

Tasks: Work with Communications Committee to identify mechanisms to advertise the scholarship program. Ideas include sending reminders to undergraduate honors directors and graduate deans on each campus as well during the SURC conference. For portable fellowships (e.g., NSF GRFP), it will be necessary to identify mechanisms to advertise the scholarship program to students at the time that they submit their fellowship applications to encourage them to continue their graduate studies within the SUNY system.

Training Subcommittee: Martin, Lee, Ann, Kathleen, Asif, Laura

Tasks: Susan Brennan from Stony Brook runs training sessions for the NSF GRFP. The subcommittee should solicit input from Susas and identify ways to develop additional training programs for other types of fellowship opportunities (e.g., NIH F31). This may include recruiting individuals who have expertise reviewing fellowship applications. The subcommittee should identify mechanisms to scale the training program so that it is available system-wide. Ideally, the webinars will be hosted on a SUNY website that is accessible to students from all SUNY campuses. Center for Professional Development and the SUNY Provost's office should be involved in the process.

SUNY/Elsevier Contract. Work with the Operations Committee on issues surrounding the contract negotiations between SUNY and Elsevier. The Operations Committee has drafted a resolution supporting the SUNY negotiators. The subcommittee should also solicit input from Mark McBride and/or Carey Hatch at SUNY. The committee may also wish to identify mechanisms that permit SUNY faculty and students to obtain access to Elsevier materials without undue burden and research disruption. In addition, the subcommittee should solicit input on the feasibility of SUNY entering into a "member institution" system (e.g., BMC), which would both enhance open access publishing and reduce publication fees paid by SUNY researchers.

Subcommittee: Lee, Ann, Eric

Patent and Intellectual Property in Tenure and Promotion Decisions. Tenure and promotion decisions rely heavily on scholarship criteria, which typically refers to publications in peer reviewed journals. A question has arisen as to whether patents are given sufficient and/or equal weight in tenure and promotion decisions. If not, does this disincentivize faculty from engaging in research endeavors that could lead to new intellectual property. Kathleen has reached out to Heather Hage, the Research Foundations's VP of Industry and External Affairs. Heather has indicated that the issue of patents in tenure and promotion decisions has been brought up many times by researchers. This appears to be a SUNY academic affairs issue and surveying "how" other Universities manage this may be a good idea.

Subcommittee: Jennifer, Katherine

Increase Collaborations Across SUNY. Identify mechanisms to enhance collaborations within the SUNY system, especially between University Centers and Comprehensive Colleges. Perhaps work with communications committee and SUNY/RF to formulate a plan to advertise research capabilities across the system. The Research Council has also identified this as a major issue within the SUNY system. The goal of the subcommittee will be to partake in a discussion with Grace Wang about the resources available to foster collaborations within SUNY and how to improve them.

Subcommittee: Kathleen, Martin, Eric Eisenbraun, Laura, Michael