

University Faculty Senate

Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee

M. Scott Goodman

Spring Plenary, Potsdam

April 11-13, 2019

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 the furtherance of research and graduate studies within the University.

Committee Members

M. Scott Goodman (Chair, Buffalo State), Diane Gal (ESC), Annie Rohan (Stony Brook), Ira Blader (UB), Laura Martello-Rooney (Downstate), Katherine Thweatt (Oswego), Fred Walter (Stony Brook), Shirley Girouard (Downstate), William Walker (Oneonta), Jennifer Rosseland-Bates (UB), Sergios-Orestis Kolokotronis (Downstate), Kathleen Caggiano-Siino (SUNY RF), Ann Hawkins (System Admin), Aloaye Tisor (Student)

Summary of committee actions since previous plenary

The Committee met to discuss progress on the 2018-2019 agenda on March 21, 2019. The committee discussed progress on these topics: graduate student stipends, SUNY graduate student research, the Interprofessional Education Conversations in the Disciplines Conference, the graduate student incentive program, and our response to the Upstate DACA resolution.

Items under consideration in 2018-2019

Graduate Incentive Program. The incentive program to award graduate students who submitted grant applications has been de-funded by the RF. Based on the report completed last year, a resolution to restart the program was passed by the UFS in Fall 2018 and received a positive response from Chancellor Johnson. We are now working to move this forward with the RF and the Provost's office.

GRE requirement. Committee members raised some concern about the GRE and requiring it for admission to graduate programs. This aligns nicely with the Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee's plans to write a resolution suggesting that standardized tests should not be required for undergraduate admissions. We produced a joint resolution (with EID) to make SUNY a "test-optional" system, which was approved at the Fall Plenary.

Promotion of Graduate Student Research. The Committee implemented a plan to have students present short research talks at the Legislative Office Building. On March 1, three graduate students, 2 from Downstate and one from UAlbany, gave 15-minute talks on research centered around the theme “Healthcare Disparities”. The talks were given at a lunchtime meeting with legislative staff members. Reports from the event were positive, and therefore the committee feels like we should do this again next year, but we should start working on this at the Fall Planning Meeting.

Graduate Student Stipends. The committee was charged to look at the issue of graduate student stipends at SUNY. The committee agrees that students supported by stipends should expect enough compensation to comfortably pursue their education. Mandatory student fees should also be considered when examining this issue, since these can cost students thousands of dollars. The committee is now waiting for the SUNY Student Assembly to lead the way on this issue.

IPE/Conversations in the Disciplines grant. Members of the G&R and Operations Committees wrote a CID proposal last year (partially funded for \$2800) and then received the promise of some additional support from the UFS (\$2200). The CID conference is set for May 13 and will use a virtual format anchored by UB with synchronous participation at 6 satellite campuses around the system. Members of the SUNY IPE Consortium are spearheading this effort, but the Committee is involved with distributing funds, assessing the conference, and using the outcomes to inform our next steps on IPE.

Medical School Funding for DACA Students. A resolution from Upstate Medical University was referred to the Committee at the January Plenary. The committee took a broad approach—funding for undocumented students enrolled in SUNY professional programs. After investigating the issues, the committee crafted and approved a resolution for consideration at the Spring Plenary.

Outcomes/queries for UFS Senators to share with their campus

If you are from UB, Binghamton, Upstate, Downstate, Poly, or Stony Brook, please help to promote the May 13, 2019 IPE CID conference to interested colleagues.