

University Faculty Senate

Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee

Isabelle Bichindaritz

Fall Plenary, Purchase

October 21-22, 2022

Summary and Action Plan

Committee Charge

The committee will provide guidance on matters relating to graduate academic programs and the development and sustainability of faculty research and other scholarship that further the institution's mission beyond classroom and curricular activities. To these ends, the committee shall identify and address issues pertaining to the policies, procedures, operation, criteria, quality, encouragement, and support of existing and proposed graduate academic programs within the University. The Committee shall also review and recommend policies and practices that affect the ability of faculty to conceive, fund, conduct, and/or report activities related to research and other scholarship within the University.

Committee Members 2022-2023

Member	Campus	Email
Isabelle Bichindaritz (Chair)	Oswego	ibichind@oswego.edu
Saquib Ahmed	Buffalo State	ahmedsm@buffalostate.edu
T'Shura Brown	Downstate	Tshura.Brown@downstate.edu
Scott Goodman	Buffalo State	GOODMAMS@buffalostate.edu
Shishir Singh	Empire State	shishir.singh@esc.edu
Kristin Stapleton	University of Buffalo	kstaple@buffalo.edu
Annmarie Urso	Geneseo	urso@geneseo.edu

SUNY Administration Liaison

Marianne Hassan

Student Representative

Nick Brennan (Upstate)

Agenda Items for 2022-2023

SUNY Virtual Research

1. SUNY Graduate Research Conference. The committee will continue to work with CPD at SUNY to organize a second SUNY-wide virtual graduate student research conference, at a date to be determined in accord with CPD's agenda. The goal of the conference is to provide graduate students the opportunity to present their research to a diverse audience. In addition, the research day could also serve as a catalyst to increase collaborations within the SUNY system by providing a meeting space for faculty and students from across the SUNY system. Several enhancements are proposed. Firstly, the advertisement will be broadened to undergraduate students as this conference will highlight graduate education opportunities at SUNY. Secondly, the advertisement will encompass the legislature, to showcase research quality and breadth at SUNY, and the general public. Thirdly, multidisciplinary, cross cutting panels on high impact big questions and societal challenges will be organized as part of this virtual conference.

The committee will work on a conference grant proposal, possibly with NSF, to fund the future organization of an in-person conference for graduate students and faculty research showcase at the SUNY level involving conversations across the disciplines.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: Communication

2. Research Resources Advertisement. The goal of this endeavor is to encourage SUNY/RF to advertise research resources held at individual SUNY campuses and create a repository of such resources, which may include core facility / shared instrumentation capabilities, computing resources such as high performance computing (HPC), software licenses, and library databases. We will explore encouraging University wide procurement for optimizing purchase pricing. The RF research newsletter could represent one such advertising medium. An additional advertising mechanism could involve short videos from each research core resource director highlighting specific capabilities of their respective facilities. The repository could be featured and made searchable on a Web-site. The committee plans to expand this research resource sharing across SUNY by providing a central location where research opportunities and summer programs could be posted by faculty members for graduate students interest SUNY-wide.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none

3. DEIS Support for Graduate Education. This initiative aims at infusing graduate education with an awareness and support of diversity in graduate students and in society. Even though DEIS concerns are taught in ethics and research methods courses in many graduate programs, there are as well considerable opportunities to infuse diversity, equity, and inclusion in the many courses in the curriculum. The committee could consider creating a white paper in this area, a Web resource with pedagogical examples in a number of disciplines, or recommend a resolution recommending the inclusion of DEIS topics in graduate education. The committee will also encourage the revitalization of programs supporting minority students, such as the PRODiG program for academic careers advancement for PhD. level students. Pipelines could be created to foster the advancement of underrepresented students toward the graduate level through pathways from undergraduate to master's, and from master's to PhD levels across the SUNY system. The committee is also interested in contributing to the creation of courses at the graduate level, possibly online and asynchronous, to teach faculty concepts and skills for pedagogy and mentoring in a diverse society. The committee is committed as well to continue advancing the DACA (Differed Action for Childhood Arrivals) students funding through scholarships project.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: EID

4. Incentive Programs for Cross Campus Research. The goal of this initiative is to reintroduce and expand successful programs that encouraged research collaboration across SUNY. The committee will gather historical information about these previously successful programs, such as the Networks of Excellence, and recommend their revitalization and expansion.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none

5. Streamlining SUNY Level Program Approval. With the goal of enhancing workforce development by creating high needs new programs, the committee would like to help SUNY campuses be more efficient when proposing such new programs, and be competitive with other campuses who work directly with NYSED such as Cornell or CUNY. The committee intends to propose that the SUNY level program approval process be streamlined to allow SUNY campuses to quickly adapt to changing workforce development needs.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: Operations

6. Best Practices and Standards for Graduate Education. Following the Governor's intent to make SUNY reach new levels of institutional excellence, the committee plans to recommend the sharing of best practices and standards for graduate education to ensure that all SUNY campuses follow the same drive for excellence in graduate education and that the SUNY label be recognized as a gauge of graduate education excellence. Best practices may for example involve such matters as dual-enrolled courses between graduate and undergraduate levels, thesis mentoring, and thesis guidelines.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: Operations

7. Enhancing research reputation and productivity across SUNY campuses. The goal of this initiative would explore supporting the expansion of research reputation and awards across SUNY campuses for both faculty and students. One step in this direction would be to expand the SUNY GREAT initiative to more disciplines by supporting the undergraduate seniors and first-year graduate students' mentoring in applying for and obtaining NSF or NIH fellowships to the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none

8. Open Access Publishing, Article Processing Charges, and the Impact on Research Publishing. SUNY has established an open access policy and campuses have adopted such policies and institutional repositories such as SOAR to facilitate open access publishing. Open access publishing typically incurs higher article processing costs compared to charges in subscription-based journals. The committee will investigate available resources to support open access at SUNY and may propose additional means to encourage the adoption of open access by Faculty, share best practices. The committee also plans to continue discussions with Carey Hatch and Shanon Pritting of SUNY to solicit input on the progress of open access publishing within the SUNY system, potential impact of open access publishing on specific fields especially those where grant funding is less common, and any potential impacts on tenure and/or promotion.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none