

University Faculty Senate

Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee

Martin Kaczocha

Fall Planning Meeting, Virtual

September 24-25, 2020

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), Asif Ahmed (SUNY Poly), Isabelle Bichindaritz (Oswego), Eric Eisenbraun (SUNY Poly), Elizabeth Bradley (ESC), Lee Graham (Oneonta), Laura Martello-Rooney (Downstate), Samir Haj-Dahmane (UB), Sergios-Orestis Kolokotronis (Downstate), Kathleen Caggiano-Siino (SUNY RF), Ann Hawkins (SUNY)

Agenda Items for 2020-2021

Graduate Student Research Showcase. Following last year's successful graduate student showcase at the legislative office building, the committee will again work with Jim Campbell to organize a research showcase that will presumably take place sometime in **February**. The topics of this virtual showcase will include effects of COVID-19 on mental health/anxiety and substance abuse, as well as how research within the SUNY system is aiding the development of new interventions to treat COVID-19. The major task of the committee will be student selection.

Subcommittee: Martin, Kathleen, Ann

SUNY Virtual Research Conference. The goal of this endeavor is to organize a SUNY-wide research conference wherein graduate and/or undergraduate students have the opportunity to present their research projects to a diverse audience. In addition to giving students the opportunity to showcase their work, the research day could also serve as a catalyst to increase collaborations within the SUNY system by bringing faculty from across the SUNY system under "one roof". The virtual nature of this conference should mitigate logistical and funding concerns.

Subcommittee: Samir, Betsy, Ann, Laura

Graduate Student Grant Writing Incentive Program. The SUNY Chancellor has launched the SUNY GREAT program (formerly known as 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 and continue their studies within the SUNY system. To enhance the success rates of SUNY students, it is imperative to develop mechanisms to train students on writing effective research grants. Susan Brennan from Stony Brook University leads grant writing training sessions for the NSF GRFP. Our committee will work with Susan and Miguel Garcia-Diaz from Stony Brook University to develop and record training seminars for the NIH F30/F31 fellowships that will be centrally hosted by SUNY or the RF.

Subcommittee: Martin, Eric, Kathleen, Laura

International Graduate Students and Visas. The visa renewal process for international graduate students has been adversely affected by COVID-19 and the committee was made aware of students experiencing difficulty renewing their visas. Our committee will first solicit information on the number of students who are affected by visa renewal obstacles. Working with other committees (e.g., Operations, undergraduate, student life), this subcommittee may then draft a resolution to petition the State Department and/or the Department of Labor to expedite the visa renewal process by migrating more of their services to an online platform. However, prior to doing so, Gwen will solicit input from the SUNY Council to ensure that drafting such a resolution is within the authority of the UFS and SUNY.

Subcommittee: Isabelle, Asif, Lee, Elizabeth

Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (EID) in Graduate Education. Our committee will work with the EID and/or undergraduate committees to determine whether and how EID principles can be integrated into graduate coursework and/or at the program level.

Subcommittee: Isabelle, Asif, Sergios

Living Through Covid. Working with graduate student deans, this committee will design questions for focus groups on the impact of learning post COVID-19. The subcommittee will facilitate two focus groups across the SUNY system in Spring 2021 that will include graduate students, faculty and adult learners. Focus group themes and common issues will emerge and best practices in teaching and learning will be shared across SUNY.

Subcommittee: Asif, Lee, Isabelle, Kathleen