

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

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
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SUNY Administration Liaison

Marianne Hassan

Student Representative

Nick Brennan (Upstate Medical)

Committee Goals for 2022-2023

1. SUNY Graduate Research Conference.
2. Research Resources Advertisement.
3. DEIS Support for Graduate Education.
4. Incentive Programs for Cross Campus Research.
5. Streamlining SUNY Level Program Approval.
6. Best Practices and Standards for Graduate Education.
7. Enhancing Research Reputation and Productivity across SUNY Campuses.
8. Open Access Publishing, Article Processing Charges, and the Impact on Research Publishing.

Committee Meeting Dates (includes type of meeting)

9/23/22 – Committee meeting to discuss goals for the year and next steps. (Saratoga Springs)

10/24/22 – Meeting to advance goals for the year and next steps and prepare the solicitation for Distinguished Research Professors panel ideas for the Graduate Research conference. (virtual)

11/18/22 – Committee meeting to discuss the Graduate Research Conference. (virtual)

12/5/2022 – Committee meeting to finalize the Web-site and Call For Participation for the Graduate Research Conference. (virtual)

2/13/2023 – Committee meeting to discuss further the Graduate Research Conference organization , the Networks of Excellence report, and the streamlining of SUNY level program approval. (virtual)

3/3/2023 – Committee meeting to discuss further the Graduate Research Conference organization and to draft a resolution to reinstate funding for cross-campus research collaboration. (virtual)

3/27/2023 – Committee meeting to review the abstracts submitted to the Graduate Research Conference, finalize the conference organization, and finalize the proposed resolution to reinstate funding for cross-campus research collaboration. (virtual)

Committee Accomplishments this year

1. SUNY Graduate Research Conference. The committee has been working with the Center for Professional Development (CPD) at SUNY (Michaela Rehm and Meghan Martin) to organize a second SUNY-wide virtual graduate student research conference. The conference was successfully held on April 11, 2023 between 10am and 3pm. The goals of the conference were to provide graduate students the opportunity to present their research to a diverse audience and to serve as a catalyst to increase collaborations within the SUNY system by providing a virtual meeting space for faculty and students from across the SUNY system. This was the second edition of this conference and built on the success and experience of the 2022 first edition of this conference. The conference was again organized with the logistical support of

the SUNY Center for Professional Development (CPD) and was advertised to all campuses to solicit presentations from graduate students, and attendance by faculty, administrators, staff, and students who may be interested in pursuing graduate education at SUNY. While in 2022, the conference featured graduate students' oral presentations and posters, this year we innovated by organizing panels centered on Big Ideas crossing discipline boundaries and associated with high impact questions of potentially large societal impact and payoff. This year the conference featured 59 graduate students' submissions, in the form of posters and panel contributions, two panels, and an invited speaker. Distinguished Research Professor Kenneth Dill from Stony Brook University delivered the keynote address on the topic of the physico-chemical origin of life. The first panel, about Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Good, featured the research of three graduate students and was moderated by Professor Bichindaritz from Oswego. The second panel, about Gender Violence around the World, featured the research of three graduate students and was moderated by Distinguished Professor Tiantian Zheng from Cortland.

Finally six parallel rooms featured groups of poster presentations grouped by themes such as Arts, Education, Biomedical Informatics, Earth Sciences, Medical Sciences, Psychology, and STEM.

The conference has been recorded and the recordings will be posted on the conference Website for future viewing, which should further increase its reach (<http://suny.edu/gradcon>). Furthermore, graduate students are encouraged to post their posters in the SOAR Institutional Repository and an abstracts booklet will be placed in SOAR by the Committee. By bringing together students and faculty from across the State, the Graduate Research Conference (GRC) created a dynamic and innovative networking space and contributed to developing the synergistic power of the SUNY system.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: Communication

2. Research Resources Advertisement and Enhancing Research Reputation and Productivity across SUNY Campuses. A subcommittee was tasked with the goal of expanding the SUNY provided training seminars for the Sciences that help graduate students write grants to more disciplines and in particular to the Humanities and Social Sciences. Professor Stapleton from the University of Buffalo (UB) shared information about a grant workshop designed for graduate students in the Humanities organized by Adam Capitanio. Although this workshop was restricted to UB students this year, it could become available SUNY-wide in the future and enhance SUNY's research and training of graduate students. The Committee also made progress collecting research resources and equipment from across SUNY.

Subcommittee: subcommittee.

Committee coordination: none

3. DEIS Support for Graduate Education. A subcommittee was tasked with collaborating with the EID Committee on a resolution on DACA support. Other actions considered were the continuation and extension of the PRODIG program, facilitating educational pathways throughout the SUNY system, and writing a white paper in support of DEISJ in graduate education and research.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: EID

4. Incentive Programs for Cross Campus Research. After soliciting the final report on the Networks of Excellence Initiative, the Committee crafted a *resolution for the restoration of incentive programs for cross-campus research collaboration*. The rationale for this resolution builds on the positive outcomes of the Networks of Excellence in terms of bringing researchers together from the entire SUNY system in collaborative workshops and of providing experiential learning opportunities for graduate students. The Committee advocates that it would therefore be worthwhile to reinstate funding for these initiatives and thus make progress in addressing some of the big societal challenges of our time and benefit society. To further facilitate cross-campus research, the proposed resolution addresses the need to create a SUNY-wide high performance computing (HPC) infrastructure that would enable SUNY campuses to harness the Big Data revolution, which now spans across all disciplines, and empower all students and faculty members to share and process large volumes of data at high speed.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none

5. Streamlining SUNY Level Program Approval. The Committee has received the SUNY level streamlined program approval process and has reviewed it. The Committee believes that SUNY's response to streamlining requests has accomplished the committee's original goals for this endeavor.

6. **Subcommittee:** entire committee.

Committee coordination: Operations

7. Best Practices and Standards for Graduate Education. Following the Governor's intent to make SUNY reach new levels of institutional excellence, the Committee recommends 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. The Committee has started to gather best practices.

8. **Subcommittee:** entire committee.

Committee coordination: Operations

9. Open Access Publishing, Article Processing Charges, and the Impact on Research Publishing.

SUNY has participated in Open Access week and committee members have encouraged their campuses to participate in it. The Committee has also recommended student authors of posters for the SUNY Graduate Research Conference to add their posters to the SOAR Institutional Repository and will post the conference abstracts booklet there as well.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none