

**University Faculty Senate
Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee
Martin Kaczocha
187th Winter Plenary**

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 2020-2021

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Summary of Committee Actions since Fall Plenary

- Graduate Student Showcase at the Legislative Office Building.
 - Following the success of last year's graduate showcase at the LOB, plans were underway to organize a follow up event this February. Prior to last year's showcase, Jim Campbell was instrumental in advertising the meeting and ensuring that it was well attended by legislative aides. Unfortunately, Jim's recent retirement and the COVID-19 pandemic produced logistical challenges that hindered our ability to organize a successful and well attended meeting. Therefore, we have elected to postpone the showcase until next year and hope to solicit the help of Jim's eventual successor to aid with showcase logistics.
- SUNY Virtual Research Day.

- The goal of this endeavor is to organize a SUNY-wide research conference wherein graduate students have the opportunity to present their research to a diverse audience of SUNY faculty and students. 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 committee is currently identifying SUNY and/or Research Foundation resources that can be leveraged to host a virtual event of this scale. The committee will subsequently focus on developing a conference format with the ultimate goal of scheduling the virtual research day for the fall semester.
- Graduate Student Grant Writing Training Seminars.
 - The SUNY Chancellor’s Graduate Research Scholarship was launched last year with the intended goal of rewarding graduate students who successfully compete for national fellowships and continue their graduate studies within the SUNY system. The goal of this endeavor is to develop training webinars to help students write more competitive grant proposals. Dr. Miguel Garcia-Diaz from Stony Brook University has recently recorded two instructional webinars for the F30 and F31 NIH fellowship programs. The videos are currently undergoing editing and the ultimate goal is to identify an appropriate platform to host the videos and make them available to SUNY students.
- International Graduate Student Visas.
 - The visa renewal process was adversely affected by COVID-19 and new governmental restrictions. The committee was made aware of graduate students experiencing difficulties renewing their visas. The subcommittee was tasked with identifying ways that SUNY can petition the federal government to ease visa renewal roadblocks. Following the fall planning meeting, the Chancellor of SUNY released a press release focusing on the topic of student visas and espousing SUNY’s commitment to its international student body. The committee believes that SUNY’s united response to the visa issue has accomplished the committee’s original goals for this endeavor.
- Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (EID) in Graduate Education.
 - A subcommittee was tasked with collaborating with the EID committee on the topic of whether and how EID principles can be integrated into graduate coursework and/or graduate programs.
- Living and Learning Through COVID.
 - Working with graduate student deans, this subcommittee was tasked with organizing focus groups to assess learning outcomes of graduate students and adult learners post-COVID19. Since the fall planning meeting, numerous surveys and teaching best practices have emerged from SUNY campuses and SUNY central. Therefore, the committee will no longer focus on this agenda item.

Requests to UFS Senators from committee: