

University Faculty Senate

Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee

Isabelle Bichindaritz

Winter Plenary, Virtual

January 19-21, 2023

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)

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

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.

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

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

Committee Accomplishments since Previous UFS Plenary

1. SUNY Graduate Research Conference. The committee has been working with CPD at SUNY (Michaela Rehm and Meghan Martin) to organize a second SUNY-wide virtual graduate student research conference. 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. The purpose of the SUNY Graduate Research Conference is to showcase the research excellence carried out SUNY-wide at the graduate level. This will be the second edition of this conference and will build on the success of the 2022 first edition of this conference. The conference will be again organized with the logistical support of the SUNY Center for Professional Development (CPD) and will be advertised to all campuses to solicit presentations from graduate students, attendance by faculty, administrators, staff, undergraduate students who may be interested in pursuing graduate education at SUNY,

and the community. While in 2022, the conference featured 24 oral presentations and 74 posters, this year we are proposing to organize panels centered on Big Ideas crossing discipline boundaries and associated with high impact questions with potentially large societal impact and payoff.

The following panel topics have been selected:

- What was the physico-chemical origin of life? (moderated by Distinguished Professor Dill)
- Energy sources--which are the most sustainable for the next generation? (moderated by Distinguished Professor Rafailovich)
- How should we understand and address gender-based violence around the world? (moderated by Distinguished Professor Zheng)
- How has Artificial Intelligence positively impacted society and what more can it do for the Common Good? (moderated by Professor Bichindaritz)

Abstract submission is now open and will close on February 28, 2023.

This virtual conference will be held on April 11, 2023. It will bring together graduate student researchers and faculty mentors from across the SUNY system and will provide a forum to disseminate research and scholarly activities through panel contributions and poster presentations in ALL academic disciplines. It will give graduate students performing research, in all disciplines, the opportunity to present their work to a far reaching audience.

By bringing together students and faculty from across the state, the GRC will create a dynamic and innovative networking space and continue to develop the synergistic power of the SUNY system. Registration and abstract submission can be accessed at SUNY.edu/gradcon.

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 have started gathering such resources.

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. We have started collecting resources related to inclusive teaching.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: EID

4. Incentive Programs for Cross Campus Research. We have received the Networks of Excellence program final report.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none

5. Streamlining SUNY Level Program Approval. We have received the SUNY level streamlined program approval process.

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 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.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: Operations

7. Enhancing Research Reputation and Productivity Across SUNY Campuses. We have started considering expanding the SUNY GREAT initiative to more disciplines and in particular 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 participated in Open Access week and committee members have encouraged their campuses to participate in it.

Subcommittee: entire committee.

Committee coordination: none

Requests to UFS Senators from Committee:

Anticipated Upcoming Actions/Accomplishments:

- SUNY Graduate Research Conference.
 - The committee will meet with CPD at the close of the submission time period to review submissions, submit panel submissions to the panel moderators, and prepare the conference schedule. We will advertise the conference broadly to maximize participation and the Communication Committee and other UFS channels will be contacted to support the advertisement. We will also debrief the conference at the end of April.
- Research Resources Advertisement.
 - We will continue making progress in collecting research resources.
- DEIS Support for Graduate Education.
 - We will consider writing a white paper to support DEISJ in graduate education and research. We will also continue working on advancing DACA support, the continuation and extension of the PRODIG program, and facilitating educational pathways throughout the SUNY system.
- Incentive Programs for Cross Campus Research.
 - We will consider recommending the revitalization and expansion of these programs.
- Streamlining SUNY Level Program Approval.
 - We will review the SUNY level streamlined program approval process.
- Best Practices and Standards for Graduate Education.
 - We will consider writing a white paper proposing best practices and standards for graduate education SUNY-wide.
- Enhancing research reputation and productivity across SUNY campuses
 - We will continue working on expanding the SUNY GREAT program to more disciplines.
- Open Access Publishing, Article Processing Charges, and the Impact on Research Publishing
 - We will consider writing a white paper to motivate faculty members to publish research papers and data in Open Access.