

**University Faculty Senate
Graduate and Research Committee
Report to the Winter Plenary Meeting, February 6-7, 2009**

Standing Charge to the Committee:

The Committee will serve 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 in the University.

Committee Actions

The committee met by phone conference and through email communication to review past committee work and discuss ongoing action items. The following items were discussed.

1. Research Road Show

The Research Road Show presented by the Research Foundation was again a huge success and through the efforts of the Research Foundation, video footage of the presentations have been collected and broken into individual presentations. The presentations and accompanying materials will soon be available for SUNY faculty to view. The committee will continue to work with the Research Foundation to facilitate dissemination of this valuable information.

2. Graduate Education

The committee discussed numerous aspects of graduate education, and recognizes that there are numerous and diverse issues facing SUNY and each campus. The committee is exploring two facets. Initial information has been collected on how graduate teaching assistants are prepared for their roles as instructors from campuses across the SUNY system. We will continue to evaluate this information and look beyond SUNY for similar models and best practices that might be beneficial for campuses to consider.

The topic of graduate faculty status was discussed, but the committee felt that more information was needed. The committee has prepared a survey to be distributed across the system to gather information on how graduate faculty status is dealt with by each campus.

3. Sustaining the Graduate Education and Research Mission

The committee has prepared a draft resolution for consideration by the Senate that urges the State to consider the impact of budget cuts on SUNY's mission of graduate education and research. Similar to the resolution passed at the Fall 2008 Plenary Meeting, the resolution emphasizes the important contributions of graduate education and research to the overall mission of SUNY and to the future economy of New York State.

Membership of the Committee:

Chair, Mark Noll - Brockport
Khalid Siddiqui - SUNY Fredonia
David Berger - SUNY Cortland
Jill Murphy - Upstate Medical University
Cindy Bird - SUNY Fredonia
Philip McCallion - University at Albany
Kathleen Kost - University at Buffalo
John Thompson - Buffalo State College
Harrison Hao Yang - SUNY Oswego
Esther Arkin - Stony Brook University
Paschalis Alexandridis - University at Buffalo
Thomas Mang - University at Buffalo
Harold Silverman - System Administration Liaison
Bobbi Teliska - System (RF) Liaison
Mike Cassidy - SUNY Student Assembly Liaison