

**University Faculty Senate
Graduate and Research Committee
Report to the Spring Plenary Meeting, May 1-2, 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 conducted business by email during the period as it was difficult to find a common time for members to convene.

1. Graduate Assistantships

A few members of the committee and others around SUNY raised an issue concerning funding for graduate assistantships and teaching assistantships, in particular concerns regarding funding to cover tuition waivers after the increase in tuition. Additionally, funding to support stipends for teaching assistants who perform such a valuable function was also a concern. A draft resolution encouraging SUNY to investigate these concerns and identify possible future ways to make SUNY more competitive in attracting the best graduate students was developed. After review by the committee, the majority of members felt that potentially requesting more funding at this time, given the current economic situation, is not advisable.

2. Graduate Teaching Assistantship Training

Work is still ongoing to gather best practices for training new graduate teaching assistants for their role in the classroom. A compendium of information will be available soon.

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