

**Meeting Minutes**  
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee  
April 15, 2020 (online via Zoom, 10:45)

**Present members and adviser:** Christopher Eliot (Chair), Li Huang, Kathleen Lynch, Michael Does, Nick Mercado, Renee McLeod-Sordjan, Zoran Sunik, Liudmila Patokina, Elfreda Blue (Provost's Office), Suzanne Pike (Provost's Office), Evan Koegl (Registrar)

The minutes of March 26, 2020 were approved unanimously.

**1 Fall opening challenges**

The committee tried to identify the challenges graduate programs will face in a Fall opening with at least some courses unable to meet in a normal way. We attempted to strategize about meeting those challenges, identifying three areas in particular.

**2 Fall opening challenges: Labs**

Courses with labs will face challenges. Kathleen Lynch asked if the university could permit departments to offer laboratory courses in a different semester from their associated lectures, to permit them to operate normally.

**3 Fall opening challenges: Practicums**

Similarly, practicum courses may be difficult to offer. Suzanne Pike noted that practicum hours are normally taken at the same time as a main course, but that that may not be possible. Renee McLeod-Sordjan wondered if students might, in some respect, remain in classes to do hours past the normal deadlines. Suzanne Pike noted that the Bursar would normally charge students to remain in a program were they unable to complete their practicum courses. We wondered if fees could be waived. Evan Koegl recommended that any change to this should be comprehensive.

Nick Mercado asked if there could be flexibility about what counts as practicum hours; New York State has offered flexibility about this for the current (Spring) semester, but not yet for Fall.

**4 Fall opening challenges: International students**

There will be international students who may be unable to return to the United States in the Fall. Kathleen Lynch recommended that we allow students to find local opportunities — that is, in their own countries — and allow programs to accept such activities for credit. Suzanne Pike noted that a precedent, or possible model, for such an arrangement is student-teaching done out of state. She wondered if Hofstra might develop formal agreements with other universities to facilitate this. The committee wondered if, down the road, revenue might even be generated by such arrangements.

The committee also asked whether international students might be able to defer admission on a one-time basis, or even to defer one semester. Li Huang noted that Australian universities are doing this.

**5 New business**

No new business was introduced.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45.