Graduate Council Executive and Standing Committees
Committee Reports for the Year 2022-2023

Executive Committee of Graduate Council

Members

Prof. Peter Eckersall  Interim Chair, Executive Committee (Sp’23)
Vice Chair, Executive Committee (Fa’22)

Prof. Duncan Faherty  Chair, Committee on Curriculum and Degree Requirements
Chair, Executive Committee (Fa’22)

Prof. Giancarlo Lombardi  Chair, Committee on Structure (Fa’22)

Prof. Christos Giannikos  Interim Chair, Committee on Structure (Sp’23)

Prof. Martin Burke  University Faculty Senate

Prof. Barbara Weinstein  Doctoral Faculty Policy Committee

Christopher Campbell  Co-Chair of the DGSC

Alex Jiang  University Student Senate Delegate

Provost and Senior Vice President Steve Everett
Executive Chief Librarian Maura Smale

The Executive Committee met six times during the 2022-2023 academic year and approved the Graduate Council agendas.

Committee on Committees

Members

Faculty
Prof. Herman Bennett (History)  2022-2024
Prof. Richard Churchill (Mathematics)  2022-2024
Prof. Rachel Corkle (French)  2023-2024
Prof. Bettina Lerner (Comparative Literature)  2022-2024

Students
Eric Barenboim (LAILAC)  2023-2024
Jonathan Hanon (Computer Science)  2022-2024 (Chair)
Gayle Maslow (Urban Education)  2022-2024
Brieanna Scolaro (Social Welfare)  2023-2024
The Committee met three times during the academic year - 11/15/2022, 1/9/2023, and 3/22/2023 - with an informational session occurring on 11/28/2022.

1. Replacements to fill vacancies on various committees.
2. Discussion of composition of Committee on Committees being out of compliance and fixing to put it back in compliance.
3. Discussion of election procedures for Executive Committee, College Association, and the Student Academic Appeals Committee, which have not had their elections properly conducted by the Graduate Council in years, to put the Council back in compliance with its Bylaws.
4. Discussion of possible amendments for Structure Committee to revise the Bylaws to stagger elections for all committees.
5. Recruitment of nominees for Standing Committees of Graduate Council.
6. Discussion of timeframe for elections, faculty and student nominee recruitment, and ballot.

Committee on Curriculum and Degree Requirements (CDR)

Members

Faculty
Prof. Alyson Cole (Political Science) 2021-2023
Prof. Duncan Faherty (English) 2022-2024 (Chair)
Prof. Elizabeth Macaulay (Liberal Studies) 2021-2023
Prof. Jeff Maskovsky (Anthropology) 2021-2023
Prof. Domna Stanton (French) 2022-2024

Students
Tatiana Nunez (Comparative Literature) 2022-2024
Parisa Osmanovic (Sociology) 2022-2024
Lydia Paradiso (Biology) 2021-2023

Nonvoting
Interim Associate Provost and Dean Monica Varsanyi
Senior Registrar Vincent DeLuca

The Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committee met four times during the current 2022/2023 academic year (twice in each semester). All of the items that were approved by the Committee were subsequently presented to the Graduate Council for its consideration and approval.

- Criminal Justice – proposed bulletin revisions
- History – proposed change to the language requirement
- Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) – proposed changes to admissions requirements; proposed bulletin revisions
- Film Studies – proposed name change
- English – change in language requirement and bulletin changes
• **Master's in Liberal Studies (MALS)** – new concentration in Public Scholarship; new course: *Introduction to Public Scholarship: Theories, Methods, and Approached*; new course: "Special Topics in Public Scholarship"

• **Sociology** – changes to admission requirement and bulletin changes

• **Social Welfare** – changes to degree requirements and bulletin changes; change to course title

• **Business** – new course: "Game Theory and Behavioral Operations"; new course: Independent Study

• **Astrophysics** – new course: “Independent Research”

• **Linguistics** – curriculum and bulletin changes

• **Psychology** – two new laboratory-based courses

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**Committee on Information Technology**

**Members**

**Faculty**

Prof. Matt Gold (Data Analysis and Vis; Digital Humanities) 2022-2024 (Chair)
Prof. Ping Ji (Computer Science) 2021-2023
Prof. Michael Mandiberg (Interactive Technology and Pedagogy) 2022-2024
Prof. Steve Zweibel (Library) 2022-2024

**Students**

Gisely Colon-Lopez (Urban Education) 2021-2023
Jonathan Hanon (Computer Science) 2021-2023
Ian Williams (Social Welfare) 2022-2024

**Nonvoting**

Interim AVP for IT and CIO Jeff Barnes
Executive Chief Librarian Maura Smale

The IT Committee met on the following dates this year: 10/18/22; 2/21/23; 5/4/23.

Among the major issues the committee discussed were the following:

1. **Email migration**: GC IT has documented its processes. On the whole, the initiative was reported as being successful. Remaining items that will need to be addressed fall into two main areas: (1) technical, and (2) practices and processes. Faculty representatives of the committee expressed concerns about issues being encountered, in particular, by consortial faculty. Student members brought up issues surrounding the look-up of student addresses within the new system. Problematically, when faculty and staff search for a student name, a GC email address will open pop up, as the faculty/staff system is completely separate from the student @gradcenter.cuny.edu email tenant. Interim VP of IT Jeff Barnes has raised this issue to Central CIS. A solution may be forthcoming, but is not imminent.

2. **Linux cluster**: the GC lost its Linux cluster administrator in 2022. Multiple members of the committee emphasized the importance of this position for a variety of GC projects. A search has not yet been approved. In the meantime, GC IT is attempting to cover needs with internal staffing and is making use of Central CIS expertise when needed.
3. **Eduroam**: this year, the GC served as a pilot site for Eduroam (https://eduroam.org/), a wifi network that can be used to log in to wifi networks around the CUNY system and also around the world. When an individual travels and connects to Eduroam, information is transmitted back to CUNY that helps to identify the individual as a valid user so that wifi services can be used on external campuses.

4. **Library**: The library has been lending laptops to students and is exploring other tech items, such as phone chargers, that might be lent out.

5. **GC Digital Initiatives**: GCDI provided updates on recent grants won and digital institutes held in January 2023. Updates were also provided on construction on the forthcoming Center for Digital Scholarship and Data Visualization.

6. **ServiceNow**: GC IT is working on the transition to ServiceNow, an IT service management tool. ServiceNow will be a more centralized system through which users will be able to submit requests to GC IT and to CIS at the Central Office. In Phase 2 of the implementation, HR services and facilities services will also be made available in the catalog of services to request. The system has a development platform, which will allow IT to create custom workflows and to leverage additional plug-ins.

7. **Time/Leave System**: GC IT met with Guttman Community College to discuss an automated time and leave system – a custom solution that was developed at Guttman. If there is sufficient buy-in at the GC, it is possible that the GC will look to adopt the application with a pilot version being made available at the end of June 2023.

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**Library Committee**

**Members**

**Faculty**
- Prof. Siraj Ahmed (English) 2021-2023
- Prof. Martin Burke (History) 2022-2024
- Prof. Christos Giannikos (Economics) 2022-2024 (Chair)
- Prof. Anne Stone (Music) 2021-2023

**Students**
- Tysean Bucknor (Linguistics) 2022-2024
- Amy Iafrate (Women’s Studies) 2021-2023
- Eddie Pesante-Gonzalez (Anthropology) 2022-2024

**Nonvoting**
- Executive Chief Librarian Maura Smale

The Committee met twice during the academic year (November 7, 2022 & April 28, 2023).

**Items discussed:**

1. **Election of Chair** – Christos Giannikos, Economics
2. **New Executive Chief Librarian** Dr. Maura Smale
3. The library was quiet during last summer. It was open from 9am to 10pm Mondays through Fridays and 12pm to 5pm on weekends during Fall 2022. All services were back, including a staffed reference desk, and workshops are in session. There was an average
The library is seeing an increase in usage since last semester, and library hours are now almost at pre-pandemic hours. Before the pandemic, the library used to close at 11 p.m. on weekdays but now closes at 10 p.m. because the building now also closes at 10 p.m. The library is open to the entire CUNY community and to those with whom it has consortial arrangements. In-person reference support is available, and the library is keeping track of its use. Support via email and online chat is available 24 hours a day. The library is conducting a TRACfed dataset pilot and monitoring usage statistics. (https://gclibrary.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2023/03/03/new-data-resource-tracfed/)

4. The Committee was reminded that the New York Public Library offers enhanced library privileges for doctoral students.

5. Several ongoing initiatives continue this year. There is an open knowledge fellowship available, and the library is also planning an open knowledge event series. The library has held two events as part of its Scholarship for the Public Good series. Recordings of the events will be posted online. (https://gclibrary.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2023/04/05/what-we-value-how-we-evaluate/)

6. The library office’s governance structure is also changing to include a committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion and one on accessibility.

7. The library is engaged in strategic planning this year, with some focus on archives and special collections and efforts to investigate fundraising opportunities. Information from survey data and conversations with the President and Provost is being compiled to get a sense of what the library’s constituents are interested in, with a goal of further fleshing out the strategic plan in the Spring. Work on the library’s strategic plan is in progress.

8. The Electronic Resources Librarian had resigned in August and an interim replacement has been in place. A new permanent Librarian has been identified and starts in May. There will be a blog post when she starts.

9. Construction on the C level continues. There is no final date of completion yet.

10. The Committee asked about access to large datasets, which had been discussed in the past, and whether there would be funding for an initiative on that. The library budget is still being worked out, but such an initiative is still being explored with both funding and access taken into consideration.

11. Information about the library budget and an update on the library’s strategic plan will be shared with the Library Committee.

12. MaRLI access is back and available.

13. The Committee asked about the state of library equipment such as the microfilm machines and whether new books are being purchased. A new microfilm machine was on the library’s wish list and the budget was being examined to see if there are funds for that and other equipment, which could also be targets for the library’s fundraising efforts. New, more modern microfilm equipment is now available. (https://gclibrary.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2023/04/24/update-new-microfilm-readers/)

14. New books are being purchased. The subject liaisons (https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/directory/subject) are working with the departments/programs they support to identify book needs and purchase books. There are also dedicated funds for books on diverse topics and books by BIPOC authors.

15. The library will be examining its subject specialists’ roles and who they are liaising with to reinvigorate relationships with the programs and departments.

16. Committee members asked what the library considered towards the Graduate Center’s budget savings plan and how the library would be impacted if the plan were to be
enacted. The library projected a savings of $100k in OTPS (other than personnel services) costs. This would preserve personnel costs. The library wanted to avoid cutting the monograph budget. Additionally, funds for books on diverse topics and by BIPOC authors would not be cut, and funds are received from the State towards this initiative. The bulk of the OTPS funds go towards database subscriptions. They will be looking at database usage statistics to prioritize needs. Nothing will be cut without warning and consultation. The Central Office is working to get access to more shared resources for the campus libraries to help alleviate some of the campus-based challenges being experienced.

17. A committee member from Economics indicated that access to data is particularly important for their students and they’ve developed a seminar called Data in Motion. They inform their students about data sources that are available for free and can share this type of information with the library. There may also be opportunities for the campus libraries to develop more liaison work across the CUNY system to see what is being offered and to offer it in a more coordinated way. Some campus libraries have access to special archives as well and it could be helpful to let more students know about them. The GC library is also strengthening its local archive and to make space to have an archivist. There are conversations taking place CUNY-wide about the archives and archival resources that are available. The GC library has a small grant to digitize some videotapes of CLAGS events.

Committee on Research

Members

Faculty
Prof. Elvis Bakaitis (Library) 2022-2024
Prof. Miles Corak (Economics) 2021-2023
Prof. Erec Koch (French) 2022-2024
Prof. Tony Ro (Cognitive Neuroscience) 2022-2024 (Chair)

Students
Carly Batist (Anthropology) 2022-2024
Ashwin Kumar (International Migration Studies) 2022-2024
Daniel Okpattah (Biochemistry) 2022-2024

Nonvoting
Dean Joshua Brumberg
Director of Human Research Protection Program Rebecca Banchik
Director of Research and Sponsored Programs Huyuni Suratt

The Committee on Research met twice during the current 2022/2023 academic year, on November 16, 2022 at 10:00 AM and on May 14, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

The committee discussed and reviewed proposals for the allocation of Graduate Research Technology Initiative (GRTI) funds, the end-of-access date for the old IDEATE system for IRB protocol management, pre-award budget support, and indirect cost rates.
Committee on Structure

Members

Faculty
Prof. Jill Cirasella (Library) 2021-2023
Prof. Christos Giannikos (Economics) 2022-2024 (Chair, Sp’23)
Prof. Jane Marcus-Delgado (LAILAC) 2022-2024
Prof. Merih Uctum (Economics) Spring 2023
Prof. Giancarlo Lombardi (Fall 2022; Chair, Fa’22)

Students
Amy Hammersmith (Comparative Literature) 2022-2024
Gayle Maslow (Urban Education) 2021-2023
Stefano Morello (English) 2022-2024

Nonvoting
Provost and Senior Vice President Steve Everett

The Committee met a total of six times during the academic year: 11/14/22, 2/2/23, 3/2/23, 3/30/23, 5/2/23 and 5/8/23.

Items discussed:

1. MS Program in Astrophysics – new governance
2. Election of Chair – Christos Giannikos (Economics)
3. Library- revised governance
4. Film Studies Certificate Program – new governance
5. Plan for revisions to GC bylaws and governance- discussion
6. GC Bylaws revisions timeline discussed and approved

Timeline for GC Bylaws and Governance

March 2023 / April 2023
1. SC members familiarize themselves with Graduate Council Bylaws (Bylaws) and Graduate School Governance (Governance) documents as well as with the Schaffer memo and the NYS Open Meetings Law.
2. Conduct research and gather input on Bylaws and Governance review
3. Identifying issues
4. Updating briefly members at March Grad Council meeting
5. Establishing Timeline
6. Prioritizing / ranking issues
7. Phase One: Addressing issues of Grad Council membership; Alternates vs. proxy voting
8. Discussing existing proposal presentations and inviting authors of such proposals to committee meetings

May 2023
1. Report to Grad Council
2. Presentation of findings of Phase One
3. Phase Two: Comprehensive review of Bylaws and Governance
4. SC prepares draft documents
Fall 2023
1. Present draft documents to community
2. Solicit community input
3. Finalize draft and present to the Graduate Council

Spring 2024
1. Present revisions to CUNY
2. Complete revision process and implement new Bylaws and Governance

7. Ph.D. Program in Biochemistry – governance
8. Discussion on the list of specific items in Bylaws to review
9. Jonathan Hannon is invited as consultant

Committee on Student Services

Members

Faculty
Prof. Elvis Bakaitis (Library) 2022-2024
Prof. Maxime Blanchard (French) 2021-2023
Prof. Monica Calabritto (Comparative Literature) 2021-2023
Prof. Giancarlo Lombardi (Comparative Literature) 2021-2023

Students
Adam Kocurek (History) 2022-2024
Ariel Leutheusser (Comparative Literature) 2022-2024 (Chair)
Cristina Pardo Porto (LAILAC) 2021-2023

Nonvoting
Vice President of Student Affairs Matthew Schoengood
Director of Student Affairs Elise Perram

The committee met once during the academic year on November 29 2022 and had an informational session on April 21 2023.

1. VP of Student Affairs Matthew Schoengood reported on the office’s activities, including their in-person hours, the state of and vacancies of student housing and in the childcare center.

2. In the Fall 2022 meeting, concentration was focused on attendance at in-person events and the gradual shift back to in-person services and programming presence at the GC as well as in regards to thinking through conference support for students (which over the pandemic were reallocated to emergency funds).

3. In the Spring informational session, VP Matthew Schoengood reported on the advancements taking place to organize a formalized Food Pantry at the Graduate Center. Student Affairs is working in consort with The Food Bank of New York City and in faculty, students and staff have been working together to determine how this will be implemented at the GC. This has involved visiting other CUNY Food Pantries and considering the space in which this will be housed. To start off, the pantry will not have refrigeration, but this is a developing project. Conversations have been had with CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy to determine ideas for the kinds of foods and other household goods that should and can be prioritized. There will likely be
The pantry will remain available on limited hours of access to the pantry. This is still to be determined exactly, and training will need to be undergone for those overseeing the pantry, including regarding hygiene and instructing in access to SNAP benefits.

4. In regards to the matter of on-site food at the GC: conversations are taking place with John Jay College in regards to a food service vendor. The kitchen has some issues so there is a undergoing consideration of how and if hot food will be provided.

5. The conference presentation funds are being distributed again. Students can access up to $300.00.

6. There is a new director for Student Counseling Services, and a new Staff Psychologist.

7. Professor Bakaitis brought to attention the work of the LGBTQ Council to improve the use of preferred names and gender updates for students across CUNY.

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**Budget Committee**

**Faculty**
- Prof. Jean Graham-Jones (Theatre and Performance) 2022-2023
- Prof. Ping Ji (Computer Science) 2022-2023
- Prof. Louise Lennihan (Anthropology) 2022-2023 (Chair)
- Prof. Giancarlo Lombardi (Comparative Literature) 2022-2023
- Prof. Jeff Maskovsky (Anthropology) 2022-2023
- Prof. Van Tran (Sociology) 2022-2023
- Prof. Julia Wrigley (Sociology) 2022-2023
- Prof. Barbra Teater (Social Welfare) Spring 2023

**Students**
- Shawnda Chapman (Social Welfare) 2022-2023
- Jonathan Hanon (Computer Science) 2022-2023
- Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic (Sociology) 2022-2023

**HEOs**
- Luke Waltzer (Teaching and Learning Center) 2022-2023
- Les Gribben (Admissions) 2022-2023

**Nonvoting**
- President Robin Garrell
- Provost and Senior Vice President Steve Everett
- Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration Brian Peterson
- Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and Inclusion Martin Ruck
- Executive Chief Librarian Maura Smale
- Co-Chair of the DGSC Silvia Rivera Alfaro
- Chair of the HEO Screening Committee Les Gribben

The committee met seven times in 2022-23 (six meetings, one special briefing).
Meetings: November 7, 2022; December 12, 2022; February 16, 2023; February 28, 2023; March 14, 2023; April 24, 2023

Special Briefing:
March 27, 2023, President Garrell, Provost Everett, SVP Peterson on the FY24 GC Saving Plan
Topics discussed:

1. CUNY and Graduate Center (GC) FY2022-23 (FY23) budgets, budget timelines, and the University budgeting process.
2. Discussion of GC’s FY23 financial plan and budget allocation
   a. Presentation of quarterly and mid-year reports
   b. Discussion of the GC’s structural deficit and impact of unfunded labor increases
3. GC’s FY23 savings plan guidance memo from CUNY Central
   a. GC FY23 2% savings target (FY23 savings and revenue enhancements)
   b. The GC is currently projecting to close FY23 with a positive balance
4. Discussion of February 3, 2023 Memo from CUNY Central regarding FY24 college savings plan; the GC’s FY24 savings plan; various updates on GC’s budget outlook for 2024
5. Some key elements of the GC FY24 savings plan and revenue enhancements
   a. GC FY24 5.5% savings target; FY24 required savings of 5.5M through cuts and revenue enhancements. See below.
   b. FY24 projected revenue of 1,075M from external rentals, adult continuing education, indirect costs, and other opportunities.
   c. Course unit reductions. Through a cut of 65 course units and a small reduction in dissertation supervisions the GC will realize savings of 1,066M. Programs have had 1057 course units available to them; a 65 course unit reduction constitutes a 6% cut.
   d. Additional savings to occur in President’s Office, the Provost’s Office, the Business Office, IT, HR, and the library (primarily though shared subscription costs)
   e. The Provost’s Office internal tax levy budget is 93M for FY2023.
      i. 30% (36.3M) funding of student fellowships/ financial aid;
      ii. 21.2%; (25-26M) funding of academic departments;
      iii. 11.8% (14.1M) allocation to other CUNY campuses;
      iv. 6% (7.9M) staffing Provost Office and Student Affairs;
      v. 6%; 2.3%; (3.1M) centers and institutes;
      vi. Library 2.4% (2.8M)
   f. No reductions in student funding; critical need to increase amount of student fellowships
   g. Support for Student Affairs will be sustained at current level
   h. No reduction in part-time employee (college assistants) hours or positions
   
   Note: The NYS 2024 Budget was passed on May 2, 2023, after the Budget Committee’s last meeting. The effect the NYS 2024 Budget might have on CUNY and the colleges’ FY24 Savings Plans is not known yet.

6. Discussion of Chancellor’s request for 7M for graduate education and improved stipends for GC doctoral students.
7. Discussion of Diversity. Professors Martin Ruck and Van Tran have been appointed to co-chair the GC’s Black, Race, Ethnic Studies Initiative. Sources of funding are being discussed. So far, of the nine new faculty hires that took place in 2022-2023, five are from underrepresented groups, five are women and two are men.
8. Central Line Faculty numbers and hires.
   a. Numbers: source – IPEDS HR data provided by Central Office HR and IR to GC IR.
      122 Fall 2017
      127 Fall 2018
      133 Fall 2019
      129 Fall 2020
      129 Fall 2021
119 Fall 2022

b. The sizeable drop in 2022 mainly reflects the decrease in faculty in the following programs, each of which decreased by two: Philosophy, Sociology, Speech-Language-Hearing Science, and Urban Education.

9. Searches/New Faculty hires - Nine faculty searches and one administrator/faculty search were conducted this year. The ASRC, Urban Education, Anthropology, Educational Psychology, Linguistics, and Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences have successfully completed searches. Sociology and Art History have offers out. Philosophy’s search is ongoing. So far, new hires include two Professors, three Associate Professors, and two Assistant Professors.

10. The GC conducted a review of centers and institutes, as mandated by CUNY Board of Trustees.

11. University Faculty Senate (UFS) survey of Campus Faculty Consultation of FY24 Savings plan. The Budget Committee reported to the UFS that it received a briefing on the GC’s draft FY24 savings plan and a second briefing after the final FY24 saving plans had already been submitted to the Central Office.

12. Discussion of bringing election of Budget Committee members in line with the elections of other standing committee members. The bylaw change that authorized the Budget Committee neglected to add a provision for staggered term.

**Student Academic Appeals Committee**

Humanities
Prof. Martin Burke
Prof. Duncan Faherty
Prof. Domna Stanton

Sciences
Prof. Yehuda Klein
Prof. Orie Shafer
Prof. Robert Thompson

Social Sciences
Prof. Michelle Fine
Prof. Martin Ruck
Prof. Julia Wrigley