

**2015-16 FACULTY SENATE  
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**November 3, 2015**

*Approved December 1, 2015*

Members Present: Bogazianos, Cowan, Hamilton, Heather, Kaplan, La Rocco, Meidinger, Newsome, Pinch, Topping

Members Absent: Hembree (Sabb.), Wassmer (Sabb.)

**a. Call to order:** Called to order at approximately 8:34 a.m.

**b. Open Forum**

Bogazianos indicated that there was confusion in his department about the required number of readers for theses and projects. This confusion was compounded because relevant policy cannot be found in the online university policy manual. Dean Newsome confirmed that the policy requires two readers for both, with the graduate coordinator acting as a third reader who verifies format and may verify content if stipulated in department policy. Dean Newsome also noted that this policy was never included in the University Policy Manual, which caused concern among members about the currency and scope of the online policy manual. Heather agreed to raise this issue with Executive Committee and find the policy in the Senate archives. Heather also noted that GSPC will be looking at policy for approving readers later in the year, and that this issue can be revisited then.

In reference to a discussion on resources for graduate writing that occurred at the October 20, 2015 meeting, Topping noted that graduate students can use the writing center and that thesis workshops had been offered in the past. Dean Newsome indicated that funding for thesis workshops had been eliminated and that graduate students want their own graduate center. Members also noted that the writing center is not open when graduate students are typically on campus and may not focus on the needs of graduate students.

**c. Minutes of October 20, 2015:** Approved.

**d. Approval of Agenda:** Approved.

**e. Information Items**

a. Report from Chair

CPC was generally positive about the feedback GSPC had provided on the e-learning policy and endorsement form; the latter has been revised.

Documents related to the blended learning policy have been received and will be ready for discussion at the next GSPC meeting.

b. Report from Graduate Dean

Nothing to report at this time.

c. Report from Statewide Senate

At its Nov 3-5 meeting, Statewide Senate's Academic Affairs Committee has two items on the agenda related to graduate studies. The committee will discuss 1) how to

distinguish between master's and bachelor's degrees, and 2) limits on total units for graduate students. Since neither topic is likely to go to second reading at that meeting, there will be time for campus comment.

**f. Discussion Items**

**a. Old Business: Core Competencies**

The working group of Heather, Pinch, and Bogazianos met and drafted core competency descriptions, which members reviewed. Heather will present the core competencies to graduate coordinators for feedback at their November 20, 2015 meeting, and Meidinger will solicit student feedback at the GSAC meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Members also discussed how to move these forward to the Senate. The committee decided to include them in the Graduate Learning Goals/Objectives policy and discussed changes that will be necessary:

- a. provide a specific date by which programs should implement the policy (rather than “within one full academic year of approval of the policy”)
- b. include the core competencies, which will be called graduate learning goals
- c. require programs to map program learning outcomes to graduate learning goals

**b. Old Business: Duplicate Degree Policy**

Members discussed a draft of the duplicate degrees policy and made revisions.

Members explored whether an appeal procedure should be built into the policy. Dean Newsome indicated that this policy includes two levels of review—by the Office of Graduate Studies and by the department/graduate coordinator.

Members also noted that this policy does not prevent students from getting a second masters degree in a different field or a second concentration in an area in which they already have a degree.

Heather will forward the draft policy to APC for feedback.

**c. Old Business: Graduate Writing Policy (formerly Graduate GVAR)**

Members reviewed a draft of the policy and suggested revisions with the following goals:

- ensuring the policy does not include admission requirements beyond those stipulated by Title V
- providing programs with flexibility regarding the timing of GVAR certification while communicating the intent that this occur early in a student’s career
- addressing workload concerns regarding GVAR certification

Heather will present the revised policy to graduate coordinators for feedback at their November 20, 2015 meeting.

**d. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:22 a.m.

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Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC