

**2014-15 FACULTY SENATE**  
**GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**DATE**

*Approved May 5, 2015*

Members Present: Adan, Cowan, Heather, Hembree, Kaplan, May, Miller, Newsome, Palaspas, Wassmer

Members Absent: Hamilton (sabbatical), Reddick, Sprott

**1. Call to order:** Called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.

**2. Information Items**

a. Report from Chair

- The Faculty Senate elected Heather to chair GSPC next year.
- CPC is still working on the elearning policy and will disseminate it to GSPC for comment.
- The road map for graduate culture will be an information item at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate meeting. The revision to the policy on graduate learning goals/objectives will receive its first reading at that same meeting.

b. Report from Graduate Dean

- Newsome encouraged members to attend the WASC forum on Graduate Student Success, which will be in the WELL from noon to 1:30 on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The automated application process is planned to go live for Spring 2016.

c. Report from Statewide Senate

Nothing to report at this time.

**3. Discussion Items**

a. Old Business: GVAR

Committee members examined the rubric which Heather had drafted and suggested several revisions. During this discussion, the following topics also arose:

- the need for writing samples evaluated for the GVAR to be revised, out-of-class work.
- whether the GVAR should assess discipline-specific writing, general writing ability, or a combination of the two.
- the difficulty of establishing a length requirement for texts to be evaluated.
- the potential value of surveying graduate coordinators about writing in their programs
- the needs of international students, who may struggle with writing
- the extent to which graduate programs should integrate non-disciplinary writing into their curriculum.
- the importance of establishing rigorous standards for writing

- the question of whether writing should be assessed at admission.
- how many texts should be required.
- whether students might be able to take a fee-based course on mechanics.

For the next meeting, Cowan and Heather will trial the revised rubric with their students' writing. At that meeting, the committee will attempt to summarize and synthesize its discussions regarding GWAR.

b. Other Business

There was no other business.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

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Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC