

**2012-13 FACULTY SENATE
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Approved: *November 06, 2012*

October 16, 2012

Members Present: Barakatt, Blanton, Cowan, Hamilton (Chair), Miller, Reddick, Sprott,
Members Absent: Cardenas, Heather (Sabb), Hembree, Kaplan, Wassmer
Guests: Chevelle Newsome

1. **Call to order:** Called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.
2. **Minutes of October 2, 2012:** were approved as distributed.
3. **Information Items**
 - a. **Report from Chair**
 - Chair Hamilton reported that Heather had contacted her and asked if she would like to continue being chair for GSPC for Spring 2013. GSPC members were in complete agreement to keep Hamilton for another semester as a GSPC Chair. Chair Hamilton agreed to continue and thanked the committee for their support.
 - b. **Report on Executive Committee actions**
 - Chair Hamilton reported that she is working with Faculty Senate Chair, Janet Hecsh, and Kathy Garcia to figure out how to present the policy about consultation to Executive Committee and then to Senate.
 - c. **Report on Senate actions**
 - No actions were reported.
 - d. **Report on CSU actions**
 - No actions were reported.
 - e. **Report from Graduate Dean**
 - Dean Newsome reported that WASC review for the Ed.D. went well.
 - f. **Report on Graduate Advisory Council actions**
 - Dean Newsome stated that petitions are being reviewed.
4. **Student/Staff Voting Rights**
 - Chair Hamilton stated that she was asked by the Senate Chair to bring this item for discussion to the committee. Hecsh emailed the following to Chair Hamilton:

“It has come to the EC's attention that there are some differences in and concerns about policy and practice with regard to staff and student status as "ex-officio non voting members" on committees and subcommittees. Because this is the first time we have standardized the membership and operations of committees, it appears that practices about voting have been "tradition" that are now proscribed. It was never the legislative intent to remove the vote; it was, however, legislative intent to standardize membership and operations to permit committees to form and/or go on hiatus to work within a common structure and to aid the Senate Office in supporting the committees through providing members to fill vacancies as needed within or beyond the basic framework preference poll

The EC would request that committee chairs poll their committees and to provide input about the following:

- What a vote means in your context(s)*
 - What has been the traditional pattern in the committee with respect to voting (staff and student)*
 - Is it ever the case that a student or staff vote would prevent some piece of legislation from being moved forward from your committee to the next level (standing Committee, EC, or Senate?)*
 - What does your committee wish to have as it's practice with respect to voting (staff and student) ”*
- The committee discussed the student/staff voting rights. In the past, a student had a vote on GSPC. It makes sense that administrators do not vote because the Faculty Senate is making the recommendations to. It was pointed out that one student cannot get entire student population opinion. Chair Hamilton will provide the committee's feedback to the Executive Committee.

5. Repeat Policy for Graduate Students

- Chair Hamilton reported that the graduate coordinators had questions about it. One of the things that came up was the six-unit issue. At last GSPC meeting the committee decided to set a 6-unit limit on repeats for graduate students. This decision was based partly on setting a limit for graduate students that was proportional to the limit for undergraduate students. It was also based on the current policy for currency, which limits students to 6 units. Graduate coordinators suggested changing the 6 unit to a percentage of the total units in a program.
- The committee discussed and reviewed the repeat policy. Chair Hamilton will edit the proposed repeat policy based on the graduate coordinators input and will bring the policy for review to the committee at the next meeting.

6. Credit Hour Definitions

- The committee looked at the WASC policy on credit hour definition. It seems that WASC policy focuses on quantity. The question of quality vs. quantity was discussed.
- Chair Hamilton will let the CPC Chair know of the graduate coordinators and GSPC concerns about the credit hour definitions.
- More discussion will follow at the next meeting. Online-hybrid courses will be discussed.

7. Leave of Absence Policy

- A leave of absence policy exists on campus that has the categories by which a student may select leaves but there is nothing that states graduate students needs to notify anyone each term.
- The committee discussed the benefits of the leave of absence policy if students were to make notifications of their leave to the faculty, graduate coordinators, and advisors. Notification would help the university in projection of admission and enrollment. It will also help the student with the advising aspect.
- The committee suggested amending the current Leave of Absence Policy to include a statement that a student should seek advising to determine whether the courses they wish to take will be offered in a timely manner.
- Discussion will continue at next meeting.

8. Other Business: None.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Lana Sysa, Faculty Senate Staff