



**California State University, Sacramento**  
**Faculty Senate**

**Graduate Studies Policy Committee**

*END OF YEAR REPORT, 2014-15*

**I. Background**

The Graduate Studies Policy Committee is a standing policy committee of the Faculty Senate, responsible for the development of policy and oversight of graduate studies at California State University, Sacramento.

The committee meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month during the academic year, from 8:30 - 10:30 am, in SAC 275.

**GRADUATE STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE**

FS 08-54/Ex., FS 08-65/Ex., FS 09-10/GSPC/Ex.

The Graduate Studies Policies Committee shall be established as a Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate.

**CHARGE**

A. The Graduate Studies Policies Committee shall be the consultative deliberative body of the faculty on matters relating to graduate education, graduate curriculum, planning and research including post-baccalaureate course offerings, degree programs, extension, admission and matriculation requirements, assistantships, fellowships, graduate student awards, grading, library services, and other matters related to post-baccalaureate and graduate instructional development and delivery.

B. The Graduate Studies Policies Committee shall develop, periodically review, revise as appropriate and recommend such university-wide graduate policies, standards, and procedures as are conducive to the maintenance of quality in advanced degree programs throughout the University. Pursuant to this, it shall coordinate policies, standards, and procedures of the departments and schools and the University as a whole, insofar as they relate to degrees and/or programs beyond the bachelor's degree. As appropriate, the Graduate Studies Policies Committee shall also collaborate with other Faculty Senate standing committees to co-sponsor policy recommendations.

**OPERATIONS**

A. The Graduate Studies Policies Committee shall be a committee of the Faculty Senate, reporting to the Executive Committee.

B. The Graduate Studies Policies Committee shall work in close coordination with other Faculty Senate standing committees in the disposition of its duties.

C. Issues considered by the Graduate Studies Policies Committee may be referred by the Executive Committee to any of the other standing committees of the Faculty Senate as well. Any standing committee may similarly refer issues to the Graduate Studies Policies Committee through the Executive Committee.

D. The Senate shall elect a Chair at the end of each academic year to serve during the coming academic year. The Graduate Studies Policies Committee may nominate a candidate for Chair. Nominations of candidates for Chair may also be made by a senator from the floor or by a petition signed by ten (10) or more full-time faculty members.

1) The Chair is responsible for establishing the agenda for each meeting, and for producing an end-of-year report.

2) A quorum of the Committee shall require the presence of at least six voting members.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Graduate Studies Policies Committee shall be composed of 11 voting members: one Committee Chair, nine faculty representatives from each of the seven Colleges, and one faculty representative from the Library. A member of GSPC shall serve as the Faculty Senate representative to the Dean's Graduate Advisory Council. Every effort shall be made to include a faculty member from each of the seven colleges. In no instance shall more than one faculty member from any given department be appointed. In no instance shall more than 2 faculty members from any given college be appointed. Elected members shall serve three year staggered terms. The Dean of Graduate Education and a representative from the College of Continuing Education shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members, as shall one post-baccalaureate student selected according to procedures determined by Associated Students Incorporated.

Carried unanimously. (*December 4, 2008*)

## **II. Current Membership**

Adan, Sara—ASI

Cowan, Geni—Educational Administration & Policy Studies/EDUC

Hamilton, Tracy (Sabbatical Spring)—Mathematics & Statistics/NSM

Heather, Julian(Chair)—English/AL

Hembree, Sherri—Child Development/EDUC

Kaplan, Jonathan—Economics/SSIS

Miller, Christine—Communication Studies/AL

Reddick, Mary--Library

Sprott, Kenneth—Mechanical Engineering/ECS

Thakur, Sudhir (Fall only)—Finance/CBA

Wassmer, Rob—MPPA/SSIS

May, Lori—USA, ex-officio

Newsome, Chevelle—Office of Graduate Studies, ex-officio

Palaspas, Candice (Spring only)—CCE, ex-officio

Pegahi, Reza—Faculty Senate Chair, ex-officio

[Note: Attendance records are attached at the end of this report.]

### **III. 2014-15 Senate Actions Related to Graduate Education**

**FS 14/15-166/GSPC/EX**

**GRADUATE LEARNING GOALS/OBJECTIVES POLICY,  
AMENDMENT OF**

- *Approved by the Faculty Senate – May 7, 2015*

### **IV. Items Awaiting Senate Approval**

No items are awaiting Senate approval.

### **V. Summary of Committee Business**

In addition to those items discussed in sections III and IV above, the Graduate Studies Policies Committee also addressed several other important matters that will carry over into the next academic year.

1. The committee has spent a great deal of time this academic year working on the Graduate Student GVAR policy. We expect to bring that policy forward to the Faculty Senate during the next academic year.
2. Another issue that has been discussed extensively is the current policy defining Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) courses. This policy is closely related to the GVAR policy under consideration. The committee has agreed to take up the GWI policy once it has completed its work on the GVAR policy.
3. The committee has been working to define the “Meaning, Quality, and Integrity” of a graduate degree at Sacramento State. This is being done, partially, in preparation for the upcoming WASC reaccreditation visit. GSPC has identified several topics on which it plans to consult with the campus in early Fall 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Heather, Chair of the Graduate Studies Policies Committee

