



# SACRAMENTO STATE

Faculty Senate

## GRADUATE STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2019

*Approved: May 7, 2019*

### CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01.

### ROLL CALL:

Roll was taken.

Voting Members: Data Barata (absent), Anne Bradley, Bryan Coleman-Salgado, Jean Gonsier-Gerdin, Julian Heather, Katherine Kelly, Jay Lee, Anne Lindsay, Albert Lozano, Rob Wassmer

Non-Voting/Ex-Officio Members: Chevelle Newsome, Antonia Peigahi (absent), Derek Garvin

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2019:** Approved.

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

#### Reports:

1. From the Chair:

- a. The Senate passed the Graduate GVAR policy with two amendments:
  - i. Students in programs which allow grades lower than B to count towards the degree do not need to get a B in the GWI/Writing enriched curriculum courses to advance to candidacy.
  - ii. Subject to the curriculum review process and approval by GSPC, programs may allow students to demonstrate preparedness for graduate-level writing in a way not covered by the policy. Members expressed concern that this amendment undermined the policy and suggested a need to develop clear guidelines for programs to follow in proposing alternatives.
- b. At its April 9, 2019 meeting, Senate Executive Committee discussed a memo to the Dean of Students from the Dean of the College of Business Administration regarding the need for an off-cycle timeline for administering the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) exam; the GVAR Coordinator had previously indicated that this timeline was not feasible.

2. From the Graduate Dean:

- a. Approximately 4,100 applicants were received for graduate/post-baccalaureate Fall 2019 admissions; goal is to have faculty return decisions by early May so all admissions can be completed no later than May 15.
- b. OGS is working on the launch of the online new graduate student orientation
- c. At Graduate Education Advocacy Day in Washington, DC, the following were advocated for:
  - a. Preserve graduate student borrowing and loan repayment options in the HEA Reauthorization
  - b. Strengthen support for Federal Student Aid and research funding



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- c. Support policies that promote the USA as welcoming to attract and retain international graduate students

## **Discussion Items:**

### 1. Data Dashboard:

Joel Schwartz and Jim Dragna presented data showing the following:

- The Finish in Four program has not led to a change in GPA for first-year students.
- Students are progressing faster through their degrees.
- There has been no change in attrition rates.
- Year 2 data indicates differences based on ethnicity and, for African-Americans, gender.
- For students who take 15+ units, Year 1 data shows (a) differences based on ethnicity in the number who achieve passing grades and (b) an overall decline in the number who achieve passing grades.

Jim Dragna informed the committee that his office is working to develop dashboards that facilitate decision-making, and asked for the committee's input. The following suggestions were made:

- Indicators that show readiness for graduate school such as performance in writing courses.
- Data on performance in the last 60 units, broken down by major.
- GPA in major courses.
- Post-graduation data.
- Ensure that graduate educators have access to the same data available on undergraduate education.
- A need to change the paradigm to allow definitions of success to include graduate education.

This discussion will continue at a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

## **Appendix A**

### **FS 18/19-XX/GSPC/ English Language Proficiency Requirement Policy, Establishment of**

The Faculty Senate recommends adoption of English Language Proficiency Requirement policy, effective upon approval by the President.

#### **English Language Proficiency Requirement Policy**

This policy applies to all students who are applying to Sacramento State to take courses for academic credit that lead to a baccalaureate degree, a graduate degree, or a certificate.

#### **I. Students Applying to Undergraduate Programs**

All applicants to undergraduate programs whose native language is not English and have not attended schools at the secondary level or above for at least three years full-time where English is the principal language of instruction must demonstrate English language proficiency. Sacramento State interprets “where English was the principal language of instruction” to mean that a school is located in a country where English is the native language (the daily medium of communication of the majority of residents is English), and that the students receive academic instruction in all subjects (except foreign language courses) at all levels of education in English.

English language proficiency may be demonstrated by achieving any of the following:

- A score of 510 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- A score of 64 on the internet-based TOEFL
- An overall band score of 6.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic test

#### **II. Students Applying to Graduate Programs**

Title 5 requires that applicants for graduate programs who have not completed a baccalaureate degree from a postsecondary educational institution where English is the principal language of instruction must achieve a minimum score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) prior to admission to CSUS, which may be satisfied in one of the following ways:

- 550 on the paper-based TOEFL
- 80 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT)

Students may also demonstrate English language proficiency by possessing an overall band minimum score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

An individual graduate program may set higher English language proficiency admission requirements than those listed here; in such a case, the program should follow campus curricular review processes.



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III. Conditional Admission of International Students Through the English Language Institute

Conditional admission of international students is governed by the Policy Determining Academic Eligibility and Conditional Admission for International Undergraduate and Graduate Applicants Seeking to Matriculate at California State University, Sacramento through the English Language Institute.