

GRADUATE STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Approved: October 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was taken.

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

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

GUESTS: Hogan Hayes (English/GWAR Coordinator)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Approved

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Open Forum:

Heather reported on the Executive Committee's discussion of the Masters in Public Health proposal. This is a hybrid program, which is being offered through CCE because no new funding is available to offer it stateside. The program will select faculty to teach in it, with some faculty coming from tenure-track faculty as voluntary compensated overloads. The Chair of Kinesiology and Health Sciences explained that she planned to consult across campus after program approval, but that she would consult with other programs before moving forward. Senate Chair Peigahi and other Exec members suggested that GSPC should make discussion of CCE and graduate programs a higher priority for the upcoming year.

Wasmmer confirmed that consultation was now occurring and also noted that SSIS had approached HHS about offering a joint program stateside, but this proposal had been rejected. Lee and others expressed concerns about ensuring the quality of programs offered through CCE. There was a consensus that this topic should be a higher priority for GSPC, per Senate Chair Peigahi's request.

Action Items:

1. Members voted to forward a Senate resolution in Support of GSPC's Prioritization of Grad Ed Recommendations (see Appendix A) to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
2. Members approved the Minutes from September 4, 2018.

Discussion Items:

1. FPC/GSPC Workgroup: Members agreed to establish a joint workgroup on the thesis reader policy, with membership to be decided at a subsequent meeting.



SACRAMENTO STATE

Faculty Senate

2. Graduation Writing Assessment (GWAR) for Graduate Studies: The GWAR Coordinator, Hogan Hayes, presented an overview of last year's work on the GWAR. GSPC had considered three options: a portfolio, programmatic level assessment, and graduate writing intensive (GWI) classes; it decided to move forward with requiring GWI classes for all programs.

Hayes also shared feedback he received last year from graduate coordinators regarding the GWI option. While some programs with existing GWI classes supported the proposal, a number of concerns/questions were raised:

1. how to develop GWI classes and what support would be offered
2. what would happen to existing waivers for the WPG
3. whether smaller programs had the resources to offer GWIs
4. whether submission of writing samples when applying to graduate school was a possible alternative to GSPC's plans

GSPC discussed options for providing support to students (graduate writing workshops/tutorials, perhaps with online components) and faculty (faculty learning communities). Members asked Chair Heather to draft preliminary policy language with the following elements:

1. Required GWI course, either in the program or in the college
 2. Guidelines for GWI classes
 3. Inclusion of two of the current waivers, but restricted to discipline-specific writing
3. Language Proficiency Admission Requirements For International Graduate Students (TOEFL/IELTS): Heather noted that policy language on this matter is found in the GWAR policy, so the committee will need to work on this topic concurrently with GWAR revisions. Members decided to form a workgroup, with membership to be decided at a subsequent meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Appendix A

Senate Resolution in Support of GSPC's Prioritization of Grad Ed Report Recommendations

Whereas the Graduate Studies Policies Committee has expressed its desire that the campus prioritize four of the [Recommendations made by the President's Graduate Education Task Force](#);

Be it Resolved that the Faculty Senate of Sacramento State affirms its support for, and agreement with, [GSPC's prioritization](#) of four recommendations:

- *Provide release time for supervising graduate teaching and research, supervising thesis projects, coordinating (chairing) graduate programs, as well as conducting graduate experiences.*
- *Increase funding support for graduate education (e.g., dedicated graduate student writing studio, expanded support for graduate student research, child care availability, housing availability for traditional graduate students, online degree programs, non- traditional course offerings such as weekend programs).*
- *Increase grants, scholarships, and paid internships for graduate students in order to decrease time to degree. Expand our philanthropic efforts to encompass graduate student needs.*
- *Expand graduate student community into the Sacramento region through community connections, internships, and future career opportunities.*

And be it further Resolved that the Faculty Senate of Sacramento State recommends that the campus allocate resources to allow for the implementation of these recommendations;

And be it further Resolved that this resolution shall be distributed to President Robert S. Nelsen, Provost Ching-Hua Wang, Dean Chevelle Newsome, College Deans, and Graduate Coordinators.