

2015-16 FACULTY SENATE
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 20, 2015

Approved: November 3, 2015

Members Present: Bogazianos, Cowan, Hamilton, Heather, Kaplan, La Rocco, Newsome, Pinch, Topping

Members Absent: Hembree (Sabb.), Meidinger, Wassmer (Sabb.)

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

b. Open Forum

There were no items for Open Forum.

c. Minutes of September 29, 2015 & October 6, 2015: Approved.

d. Approval of Agenda: Approved with one amendment.

e. Information Items

a. Report from Chair

The Chair of the Reading & Writing Subcommittee responded to GSPC's proposal to regarding approval of graduate writing intensive (GWI) classes and indicated that the Reading & Writing Subcommittee would like to continue reviewing proposals for GWI courses. GSPC members supported this idea.

The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) conducted an alumni survey of masters programs in summer 2015. The report on this survey is being circulated to the campus community and is available through the OIR website.

The blended program policy is on hold pending receipt of supporting documents from the Office of Graduate Studies.

GSPC will not be responsible for planning institutional assessment of writing.

b. Report from Graduate Dean

There will be a forum on the Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of degrees—including graduate degrees—at noon on Tuesday, October 20.

The Provost has agreed to provide funding to support institutional assessment of graduate writing.

The policy requiring background checks of new employees will require changes to the Unit 11 processing timeline.

The Curriculum Policies Subcommittee is considering changes to the course approval process that are needed because of the campus's purchase of LeapFrog, a course review process software package.

The campus also recently purchased SmartPlanner, which will undergraduate programs to create curriculum maps. Blended programs will need to include the blended portion of their programs in this.

- c. Report from Statewide Senate
Nothing to report at this time.

f. Discussion Items

a. Old Business: Core Competencies

Heather reported on a discussion he led at the Graduate Coordinators. There was consensus around the following possible core competencies as being common to all programs at the masters level: communication; critical analysis/thinking; and scholarly & creative activity. At the doctoral level, the same competencies were identified, with an additional competency of independent research. Graduate Coordinators had agreed to map program learning outcomes to institutional core competencies in the materials they must submit in the Spring.

The Committee charged a working group of Heather, Pinch, and Bogazianos with drafting core competency descriptions for GSPC to consider at its next meeting, with the goal of presenting the core competencies to graduate coordinators for feedback at their November 20, 2015 meeting.

b. Old Business: Summit on Graduate Education

The committee reconsidered its decision to create a survey, now that transcripts of data generated at the Summit on Graduate Education were available. Members felt that a survey was still necessary, especially to get input from students, who were underrepresented at the summit.

Members also felt that the decision about how to design the survey should be informed by an understanding of what we have already learned. Cowan volunteered to analyze the summit data for themes and will present that analysis at the GSPC's November 17th meeting.

c. New Business: Duplicate Degree Policy

Members discussed the need for this policy and asked Heather to create the transmittal document—including a rationale—to help guide the committee as it works on the policy.

d. Old Business: Graduate GVAR

Members reviewed the summary of GVAR discussions from the May, 5, 2015 meeting and agreed this was a good foundation for moving forward. They also made several other comments:

- previous discussions had confounded two separate issues: 1) GVAR policy; and 2) resources needed to support graduate writing;
- the policy should focus on all aspects of graduate level writing rather than just the GVAR (with a change of name that reflects this);
- there may no longer be a need to designate courses as writing intensive;
- since the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) exam will be eliminated, there may no longer be a need for equivalency standards
- the policy should discuss writing in the culminating experience and assessment requirements.

Heather will draft policy language for consideration at the December 2, 2015 meeting.

e. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:55 a.m.

Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC