

**2015-16 FACULTY SENATE  
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**October 6, 2015**

*Approved October 20, 2015*

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

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

Guests: Ben Fell (Chair, CPC)

**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:** No vote was taken.

**d. Approval of Agenda:** Approved.

**e. Information Items**

a. Report from Chair

The GE/GR Committee is discussing GSPC's proposal to take responsibility for the approval of graduate writing intensive classes.

Heather learned at Graduate Council that WSCUC Vice President Oberg commented during his visit on the need to differentiate expectations for masters and doctoral education. One implication of this is that GSPC may need to start earlier than planned on revising the Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Policy to include a description of doctoral programs. Members agreed that addressing this policy would need to be a higher priority and suggested that language be drafted using documents submitted during the approval process for the doctoral programs in Educational Leadership and Physical Therapy. These programs should also be consulted on the revisions.

b. Report from Graduate Dean

Nothing to report at this time.

c. Report from Statewide Senate

Nothing to report at this time.

**f. Discussion Items**

a. New Business: e-learning policy

CPC chair, Ben Fell, explained the rationale behind CPC's revisions to the e-learning policy and solicited feedback. Members welcomed the changes in general but had questions about the endorsement form that accompanies the new policy:

- Is the form endorsing a course or the faculty who teach it? If the former, why is there a question regarding preparation of instructors?

- Who is going to use the data on the second page of the form, and for what purpose? This section also raised concerns about workload and whether instructors might perceive it as inequitable since the questions are not asked about other types of courses. It was suggested that this section could only be completed if departments planned to offer the course system-wide through CourseMatch.
  - Does the form need to be resubmitted every 3 years or just if there are substantial changes to policy that impact what the form is designed to do?
- b. Old Business: Summit on Graduate Education
- Newsome informed members that staff in the Office of Graduate Studies have started transcribing the notes on the flipcharts that facilitators took during the summit. Members discussed the need for gathering additional data from students and suggested creating a survey which could be shared through graduate coordinators. The survey would replicate the questions used during the summit. Heather will work on this.
- c. New Business: Writing Assessment
- Heather shared a draft plan for assessing graduate writing that he and Newsome had developed as well as feedback from the WASC Core Competencies Working Group (WCCWG) about the draft. WCCWG were concerned about the logistics of reading theses and the representativeness of sampling just theses and projects when a large number of graduate students take comprehensive exams.
- GSPC members had questions about the plans for revising GVAR and how the GVAR rubric would work. Heather summarized the discussion from the GSPC meeting on May 25, 2015 and indicated that the university needs to establish (a) whether the GVAR rubric would work for both early- and late-career assessment of writing and (b) what scores would represent satisfactory preparation for writing prior to advancement to candidacy.
- GSPC members discussed the WCCWG feedback and decided that it was necessary to look at theses but that comprehensive exams would also need to be assessed. Members asked about who would evaluate writing samples and raised concerns about whether readers from outside the discipline would be able to read discipline-specific writing.
- d. New Business: Core Competencies
- There was no time for discussion.
- e. New Business: Blended Learning Policy
- There was no time for discussion.
- f. Old Business: Graduate GVAR
- This was discussed under item (c).
- g. Other Business
- There was no other business.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

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Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC