

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

November 17, 2015

Approved December 1, 2015

Members Present: Cowan, Heather, Kaplan, La Rocco, Meidinger, Newsome,

Members Absent: Bogazianos, Hamilton, Hembree (Sabb.), Pinch, Wassmer (Sabb.),
Topping

a. Call to order: Called to order at approximately 8:32 a.m.

b. Open Forum

There were no items for Open Forum.

c. Minutes of November 3, 2015: Not approved (no quorum).

d. Approval of Agenda: Not approved (no quorum).

e. Information Items

a. Report from Chair

Heather and Pinch raised GSPC's concerns with the online policy manual at Senate Executive Committee on November 3, 2015. Heather reported that Academic Affairs and the Senate Office are aware of this issue, but additional resources are needed to address it.

Heather reported that, at the Graduate Coordinators meeting on November 20, 2015, he will solicit feedback on two items of GSPC business: core competencies, and the graduate writing policy.

b. Report from Graduate Dean

The campus has purchased software that integrates the catalog with the course review process. The software will be implemented for the 2017-18 academic year.

c. Report from Statewide Senate

Nothing to report at this time.

f. Discussion Items

a. Old Business: Duplicate Degree Policy

Members reviewed feedback from APC on the duplicative degrees policy, noting that it focused exclusively on the purpose and process. Heather will revise the transmittal document to address this and bring the policy and transmittal document back to GSPC as an action item at the December 1, 2015 meeting.

b. Old Business: Summit on Graduate Education

Cowan presented an analysis of the summit data for themes. Members discussed whether to conduct a follow-up survey for students, but raised two concerns: students may be suffering survey fatigue because of other groups' efforts to survey them; the

additional information generated from a survey may be insufficient given the time and effort needed to create, administer, and analyze a survey.

In the interim, Heather suggested presenting the analysis to the Graduate Student Advisory Council and graduate coordinators and at their December 2015 meetings, with the goal of identifying areas that are missing or need greater emphasis. Members supported this idea.

c. New Business: Blended Programs Policy

Dean Newsome explained that this policy results from an Executive Order and the campus experience implementing the blended program created by Mechanical Engineering. The purpose of blended programs is to help with retention, promote graduate programs, and ensure students are competitive in the marketplace. Several programs are considering the creation of blended programs; thus, the policy is needed.

Meidinger asked whether the policy allows students to claim they have a baccalaureate degree after completing 120 units. Dean Newsome replied that the policy allows for awarding the baccalaureate degree when undergraduate requirements have been completed.

La Rocco asked why the policy requires students to apply to blended programs prior to completion of 60 units, noting that this seemed a little early. Other members echoed this concern, especially for transfer students. Dean Newsome replied that the policy applies not to the total number of units taken, but the number of units taken towards the degree, and that exceptions may be allowed. Dean Newsome also noted that one of the purposes of the degree is to allow for accelerated completion of the baccalaureate and graduate degrees, which requires early and active recruitment into the program.

d. Other Business

Meidinger announced that the Graduate Student Advisory Committee will be holding a potluck for graduate students 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC