

2016-17 FACULTY SENATE
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 4, 2017

Approved: May 2, 2017

Members Present: Bogazianos, Bradley, Hembree, La Rocco, Lindsay, Topping, Wassmer

Members Absent: Cowan, Newsome, Pinch, Vargas

Guests Present: Endriga, Barhani

- a. **Call to order:** Called to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.
- b. **Open Forum:** Hembree complimented Endriga for the past coordinator's meeting
- c. **Minutes of March 7:** Approved with one abstention and one correction.
- d. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved.
- e. **Information Items**

- a. Report from Chair

Bogazianos reported that he had spoken with President Nelsen, who was in agreement about attending a GSPC meeting early next Fall instead of this semester.

- b. Report from Graduate Dean

Endriga reported that vast majority of 3000 grad apps were done, with only 50 not done, and 300 were incomplete. Endriga also noted that OGS continues to get requests for late applications, and that some depts. communicate the timelines/deadlines to applicants better than others. Endriga reported that CSU Mentor is still on its way out, with CSU Apply on its way in. Endriga also reminded the body that next week was grad student appreciation week, and that there would be a virtual grad fair next October, but details were still being finalized. Endriga also reported that Unit 11 grad TAs are now non-exempt employees, and that there appears to be a growing fallout, since they are now paid hourly, which can put a strain on budgets and that some programs may resort to reducing TA opportunities. Endriga suggested that it might be cheaper to move some TA opps back to exempt lecturer status. Bogazianos suggested that the larger issue involves the CSU system not funding TA opportunities as it could and should in order to support grad ed generally. Endriga suggested that this was a segue into reporting about the Grad Ed Task Force, which, among other things, had been discussing what a "minimum floor" might look like to support programs rather than the current ad-hoc system; Topping and Wassmer were members of a Task Force subgroup involved with discussing these issues. Lastly, Endriga reminded the Committee that WASC would be visiting next week, and that both she and Bogazianos would be attending "lines of inquiry" meetings along with many other members of faculty and the administration. Endriga asked if the Committee should discuss what Bogazianos and/or Endriga should focus on in the meetings, if relevant questions were asked. Bogazianos noted that WASC's line of inquiry about grad ed was fairly narrow, and that the Committee had already given its written response to Executive Committee. The Committee generally

agreed that focusing on our response to the specific line of inquiry, as well as support for grad ed in general would likely be appropriate for the meeting.

c. Report from Statewide Senate

Nothing to report.

f. **Action Item:** GSPC Chair election/nomination for AY 17-18

Wassmer made a motion to put Bogazianos' name forward as GSCP's Chair nomination for next AY; Topping seconded; the body voted unanimously to do so.

g. **Discussion Items:**

a. Continuing Business: Resolution Discussion

In order to facilitate continued discussion of a possible GSPC resolution about grad ed, Bogazianos distributed hard copies of Resolution draft ideas II, compiled from previous suggestions made by GSPC members. Previously, the Committee had agreed that draft ideas were moving in the right direction, but needed more work. Bogazianos noted that resolutions in general can be strange rhetorical exercises, and that it was his experience that more focused, direct, and categorical language—rather than overly campus-specific—often seemed to work well. The Committee generally agreed that focusing on crafting language within a few key categories—such as larger system-wide context; regional importance; increased support for grad directors and thesis-advisors; as well as a more sustained focus on the specifics of grad student needs; among other things—was a logical way to focus things. All members made key suggestions. Hembree, for example, suggested language that emphasized the importance of serving the needs of our master plan requirements. Topping suggested that the current strategic plan could also be a source from which to inspire language. Lindsay suggested specific clause-phrasing, especially concerning the need for campus services to be more closely aligned with grad ed/student needs. Endriga suggested language to highlight the degree to which grad ed/students give back to undergraduate programs via TAs, teaching and the like. Hembree also suggested that language focus on increasing resources for “grad ed culture,” which WASC has highlighted in the past. Wassmer suggested language that would highlight the fact that, as more CA residents earn UG degrees, there will be an increasing demand for grad degrees. La Rocco suggested language that would avoid getting bogged down in campus- or college-level funding specifics, and focus on broad resource support instead. The Committee ended the discussion by acknowledging the fact that the effort is a complex one and that more work needs to be done, but that specific finished language will not be completed until next fall.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Dimitri Bogazianos, Chair, GSPC