

**2014-15 FACULTY SENATE  
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**February 3, 2015**

*Approved March 3, 2015*

Members Present: Adan, Cowan, Hamilton, Heather, Hembree, Kaplan, May, Miller, Newsome, Palaspas, Reddick, Sprott, Wassmer

Members Absent: Thakur

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

**2. Minutes of 12-2-14:** Approved.

**3. Information Items**

a. Report from Senate Analyst

Members whose term is ending (Miller, Sprott, Reddick) should complete the Preference Poll, choosing "High Interest" if they wish to continue serving on GSPC next year.

b. Report from Chair

Senate Executive Committee is examining new baccalaureate programs that community colleges are proposing under S.B. 850.

The ASI Graduate Director asked for guidance regarding emails she received from several graduate students seeking an exemption to the GVAR policy. GSPC members recommended that she (a) inform the students that only the Office of Graduate Studies has the authority to make exceptions to campus policy and (b) copy the GVAR Coordinator on the correspondence.

c. Report from Graduate Dean

Graduate Student Appreciation Week will be April 6-10<sup>th</sup>. Graduate Coordinators have been polled about their interest in hosting events. Planned events include a symposium focused on graduate student research.

Office of Graduate Studies is working on plans for an international coffee hour to allow international students to interact with graduate students.

The Provost has asked Dean Newsome to examine standardized exams as admissions criteria; Dean Newsome is seeking information from graduate coordinators regarding who uses them and for what purpose.

The Outstanding Thesis Award will be launched in 2015-16.

Office of Graduate Studies is monitoring a website that provides advising tips to recently-admitted graduate students.

Enrolment numbers have been maintained at around 7% of total enrolment, but are still not at the 10% level allowed for in campus policy. Partly this is due to changes in financial aid criteria which impacted our population. Dean Newsome has asked Deans to work with Graduate Coordinators to develop

new ways of promoting graduate education. Wassmer reported that the Dean of SSIS has indicated a commitment to providing assigned time to Graduate Coordinators.

d. Report from Statewide Senate

The Council of Library Deans have recommended against renewing the system-wide contract with Wiley, which may impact graduate education since some sources will be harder to obtain.

The California Pre-Doctoral Program is looking for a new Director.

#### 4. Action Items

- a. Geni Cowan was selected as the GSPC representative to the Enrollment Management Committee.

#### 5. Discussion Items

- a. New Business: Graduate Student Appreciation Week

There was no discussion of this topic.

- b. New Business: Core Competencies

Dean Newsome reported that (a) because of reaccreditation, the campus needs to assess core competencies at the graduate level, and (b) the Chancellor's Office had suggested the campus either build on the undergraduate core competencies or identify 3-4 broad things that all graduate students are expected to master.

Chair Heather also reported that the Meaning, Quality and Integrity Working Group had asked whether GSPC wants to examine possible connections between undergraduate and graduate learning outcomes.

The committee decided that it should work on identifying the core competencies to be assessed and determining expected standards for each of them. During the committee's discussion, several key questions emerged:

- how and to what extent core competencies at the undergraduate and graduate level should be connected;
- how will the campus be able to establish standards at the graduate level, when expectations at the undergraduate level have yet to be articulated;
- the extent to which core competencies may be interconnected;
- the extent to which we focus on development of competencies in the discipline (program identity) versus more generally (a Sac State identity)

- c. Old Business: Graduate Road Map

The Committee decided to share the draft of this document with Graduate Coordinators at their February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting; before then, committee members would review the draft and provide feedback over email.

- d. Old Business: GVAR

The committee decided to review the most recent draft of the revised policy and share questions or concerns over email prior to the next GSPC meeting.

e. Other Business

There was no other business.

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

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Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC