

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

**February 17, 2015**

*Approved March 3, 2015*

Members Present: Adan, Heather, Kaplan, Newsome, Palaspas, Reddick, Sprott, Wassmer

Members Absent: Cowan, Hamilton (Sabbatical), Hembree, May, Miller, Thakur

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

**2. Information Items**

a. Report from Chair

CPC has updated definitions of minor, concentration etc. Nothing has changed at the graduate level except for correcting the name of our committee; however, the committee may wish to add a description of doctoral programs to that section at a later date.

The WASC Core Competencies Working Group were glad GSPC is looking at core competencies and shared its concerns about the lack of graduate culture on our campus.

Chair Heather will be presenting the Graduate Culture Road Map to Graduate Coordinators when they meet on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

b. Report from Graduate Dean

Dean Newsome updated the committee on Graduate Student Appreciation Week. One activity will be a Graduate Research Interaction Day on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the College of Arts & Letters will hold a reception at an art gallery. There will also be an international coffee hour to allow international and domestic students to meet.

c. Report from Statewide Senate

There was no report.

**3. Discussion Items**

a. Old Business: GWAR

The committee discussed the draft it had previously worked on in Spring 2014. Members revisited several themes that had been part of previous discussions but felt that no progress was being made and that a different approach might be needed.

Members suggested that the committee could consider an alternate proposal that:

- defines graduate writing as writing the discipline
- describes the purpose of the GWAR
- establishes criteria for evaluating graduate writing (i.e. a rubric)
- includes an early assessment of student's ability to write in the discipline
- provides certification at graduation

Committee members asked Chair Heather to draft an alternate policy for discussion and comparison to the draft developed in Spring 2014. Members also agreed on the need to identify non-credit-bearing options—such as workshops or a graduate writing center—for providing writing assistance and ensure graduate student success.

b. Other business

There was no other business.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

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Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC