



ACADEMIC SENATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
Graduate Studies Advisory Committee

Annual Report AY 2020-21

Prepared by: Dina Perrone, Chair

Membership

Elected Members: Robert Ortiz Archila (ASI); Louis Williams (ASI); Shabnam Sodagari (COE); Suzanne Wechsler (CLA); Maria Claver (CHHS); Kevin Sinchak (CNSM); Ying Liu (COB); Jyotsna Pattnaik (CED); Vacant (COTA)

Staff Members designated by Dean of Graduate Studies: Mary Anne Rose (CED) and Rhianna Williams (COB)

Academic Senate Designee: F20: Jessica Pandya (AS Chair); S21: Praveen Shankar (Interim AS Vice Chair)

Associate Deans or College Designees: Laura Portnoi (CED); Cory Wright (CLA); Jennifer Ostergren (CHHS); Babette Benken (CNSM); Rod Smith (COB); Feike Leij (COE); Margaret Black (COTA);

Academic Affairs Representatives: Bryan Rodriguez (Director GSRC); Jody Cormack (Vice Provost); Dina Perrone (Interim Director of Graduate Studies); Jacqueline Canales (Enrollment Services); Eugenia Kim (CIE); Mahmoud Albawaneh (IR&A)

Officers: Dina Perrone, Chair

Introduction

This was the inaugural year for the Graduate Studies Advisory Committee that met the third Thursday of every month starting on September 17, 2020 through May 20, 2021.

The GSAC committee completed two tasks in AY 20-21:

1. Drafted the new Master's Programs Culminating Activity Policy
2. Reviewed a graduate appeal

Based on these actions, recommendations for the AY 21-22 GSAC to facilitate GSAC's processes, foster the success of graduate students, and improve the quality of graduate programs are provided.

The Master's Programs Culminating Activity Policy

1. The committee sought to improve progress to degree, reduce requests for exceptions, enhance policy clarity, and advance quality of graduate programs by drafting an updated culminating activity policy for master's programs.
2. The draft combines PS 14-01 Requirements for Master's Degrees; PS 95-07 Definition and Regulations for Graduate Theses and Projects; PS 81-08 Thesis Signature Page; and PS 75-15 [Thesis] Individual Student Authorship.
3. GSAC primarily acted as a committee of the whole to combine, review, and edit the current policies on culminating activities for master's degrees into a new policy.
4. Subcommittees were only created to tidy the language in the new policy.
5. GSAC members sought feedback from programs in their colleges to ensure that other graduate programs supported the changes, deletions, and additions to the policy.
6. The final draft was unanimously recommended and shared with Dr. Jody Cormack on May 20, 2021 to forward to CEPC on the committee's behalf.

The Graduate Appeal

1. GSAC's charge states: *GSAC also serves as a body that reviews any relevant graduate appeals for the Dean of Graduate Studies.*
2. Dr. Jody Cormack, the Dean of Graduate Studies, received an appeal to a decision she made on a petition for exception to academic policy.
3. GSAC created a subcommittee comprised of the GSAC chair, two faculty/directors, and one student to review the appeal, and render a decision.
4. Dr. Jody Cormack and the program were notified of the appeal decision on March 25, 2021. The appellant was notified on April 15, 2021.

Recommendations for the AY 2021-22 GSAC

On Process

1. The charge of this committee did not include a historian, yet one is needed.
2. At the *first meeting* of the semester,
 - a. Request a volunteer to act as historian, who may assist the chair, take minutes, and edit working drafts.
 - b. Create a GSAC Graduate Student Appeals Subcommittee to review appeal cases.
3. Draft an appeal protocol/procedures for use by the current and future GSAC Graduate Student Appeals Subcommittee

On Substance

1. Consider:
 - a. What is the meaning of a graduate degree?
 - b. What does it mean to have a graduate degree from CSULB?
2. Engage with graduate student data from IR&A and the graduate student entrance, exit, and alumni surveys to improve graduate programs and the graduate student experience.
3. Draft an updated Requirements for Master's Degree Policy that combines PS 14-01, PS 11-02, PS 12-12, PS 14-03, PS 18-03, and PS 75-02.