



## ACADEMIC SENATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

### Graduate Studies Advisory Committee

#### Annual Report AY 2022-23

**Prepared by:** Dina Perrone, Chair

#### Membership

**Elected Members:** Vesna Terzic (COE); Caitlin Murdock (CLA); Lei Sun (CHHS); Kevin Sinchak (CNSM); Howook Shin (COB); Erin Biolchino (CED); Rebecca Sittler (COTA)

**Student Representatives chosen by ASI:** Diamond Byrd (ASI); Verena Mikhail (ASI)

**Staff Members designated by Dean of Graduate Studies:** Mary Anne Rose (CED) and Lindsey Sterk (COB)

**Academic Senate Designee:** Norbert Shürer (AS Vice Chair)

**Associate Deans or College Designees:** Laura Portnoi (CED); Sarah Schrank/Cory Wright (CLA); Tiffanye Vargas (CHHS); Babette Benken (CNSM); Rod Smith (COB); Feike Leij (COE); Colleen Dunagan (COTA);

**Academic Affairs Representatives:** Kim Scatton (Director GC); Jody Cormack (Vice Provost); Dina Perrone (Associate Dean of Graduate Studies); Andrew Wright (Admissions), Jacqueline Canales (Enrollment Services); Eugenia Kim (CIE); Anthony Tchen (IR&A)

**Officers:** Dina Perrone, Chair

#### Introduction

The Graduate Studies Advisory Committee met the third Thursday of every month starting on September 15, 2022 through April 20, 2023.

Monthly, GSAC received a report from the Graduate Center about upcoming events and programming, and the graduate student representatives about challenges and ideas to promote success.

The AY 22-23 GSAC primarily engaged in discussions on how to improve recruitment and retention of our graduate students and enhance the graduate student experience. GSAC also handled one graduate student appeal.

#### Actions and Topics

1. Created a subcommittee to review an appeal and render a decision
2. Voted to remove university writing requirement for graduate programs
3. Examined Graduate Entrance Survey Data
4. Discussed Blended Programs

5. Outlined recruitment strategies
6. Reviewed application and yield data
7. Presented graduate student financial aid questions and challenges to the Director of Financial Aid, Nicholas Novello
8. Voiced commencement ideas and concerns to Chris Reese of University Relations & Development
9. Heard concerns from our graduate students around parking costs and food options in the evenings and on weekends
10. Considered offering a graduate enrollment deposit
11. Debated grade inflation at the graduate-level

#### **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 on February 3, 2023.
3. GSAC created a subcommittee comprised of the GSAC chair, three faculty, one associate dean, one administrator outside of a college, and one student,
4. Dr. Jody Cormack, the program, and the appellant were notified of the appeal decision on March 3, 2023.

#### **Recommendations for the Campus**

Based on these actions, the AY 22-23 GSAC makes the following recommendations to facilitate GSAC's processes, foster the success of graduate students, and improve the quality of graduate programs:

1. Seek opportunities to provide more funding for graduate students and graduate student recruitment
2. Link with the Design department to create media campaigns to advertise grad programs
3. Engage with CIE to identify enrollment targets
4. Work with Parking to offer reduced parking rates for evening and weekend graduate students
5. Connect with DAF to offer healthier food options on campus that are more frequently available
6. Inform graduate students about processes for appealing financial aid decisions
7. Consider graduate-only ceremonies and/or supporting small program-specific hooding ceremonies on campus

#### **Recommendations for the 23-24 GSAC**

1. Suggest the Graduate Center Director to be the historian
2. Ensure each college has elected an alternate
3. Draft an appeal protocol for use by the current and future GSAC Graduate Student Appeals Subcommittee
4. Discuss ways to best support graduate students
5. Meet with campus providers that serve graduate students to learn of process (e.g., health)
6. Collect data on impact of new deadlines and enrollment deposit