



Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

AGENDA

Thursday, November 16, 2023

10:30am-12:00PM

10:30-10:31: Call Meeting to Order – Jody Cormack

Started at 10:32am

10:32-10:34: Review and Approve Agenda

Move: Sarah Schrank

Second: Kevin

Approve by acclimation

10:35-10:37: Review and Approve October [Minutes](#)

Hold on approving since the link is to the September minutes. We will review minutes at the next meeting.

10:38-10:45: Vote for Co-Chair, Pei-Fang Hung

Pei-Fang informed that Dina received 1 nomination for Sarah Schrank

Sarah accepted the nomination

9 hands raised for approved

0 hands opposed

Motion passes.

10:46-10:56: *Graduate Student Pulse*: Alejandra Romo & Aishwarya Chauhan

Aishwarya – No report.

10:57-11:25: *Presentation*: [Potential of Social Media Outreach](#), Prof. Sam Anvari + Paulina Masley + Cynthia Warren

- *Started discussion at 11:02*
- Examples reviewed:
 - Communication Studies - <https://www.instagram.com/csulbcomm/>
 - Political Science <https://www.instagram.com/csulbposc/>
- Showcase current students, student life, campus life, and what the program has to offer prospective students
- Leverage auto-posting
- Interact with the comments and the likes
- Engage with those who connect via your social media.
- Mary Anne Rose strongly recommends using:
 - LinkedIn for marketing
 - Reddit as a means of communication

11:26 -11:52: *Discussion Topic*: [Repeat and Average](#) Grading Policy, Sarah Schrank

Moved to this topic at 10:40 since Sam/Paulina/Cynthia had not yet joined the meeting.

- Nuts & Bolts of Grade Forgiveness
 - Only 1-course one time?
 - Maximum number of repeats for forgiveness?
 - Any course or required earned C or below?
 - Earned same or lower grade?
 - Forgive only to get into good standing (academic warning or not)?
 - Must graduate advisor request forgiveness?
- Babette Benken – Some campuses that do allow to repeat, the highest grade is the one accepted.

- Often a class is only offered once a year, so the course could not necessarily be taken in the immediate next semester.
- Highly in favor of determining a process, its very specific situations of students who may disappear but almost impossible for them to come up to good standing because its more than one class during that semester.
- Jody Cormack – She explained that this is not common across the CSUs. As result, she queries the group to consider the ramifications.
- Sarah Schrank – CLA advisors had strong feelings for and opposed grade forgiveness. Those opposed were concerned about the potential for frequent and unlimited repeat/deletes.
- Caitlin Murdock – wondered if the group would want to grant only D/F grades vs C grades.
- Mary Ann Rose – CED took a poll and were in favor. As the person who manages the process, preference would be on a case-by-case scenario, as it could make it possible to remediate the student’s GPA.
- Virginia Gray – In CHHS, faculty are in favor of 1 course to be repeated and deleted and would prefer ubiquitously rather than case-by-case.
- Vesna Terzic – COE is in favor of one course, and more than one could be on a case-by-case basis. They are most concerned with international students. In their first semester, many struggle due to their transition to the US. COE only considered Ds and Fs.
- Jody Cormack – she is in favor of 1 course, unless the master’s degree is higher than 60 units. The percentage of the degree can be compromised if its more than one course. For example, 30 units for a degree so 1 course is 10% of program. 60 unit or higher master’s degree can possibly have 2 courses.
- Meghan Griffith- Pina – This will likely be a manual process to start, but we may be able to automate it since there is a process in place for undergrads at the CSU Wide level.
- Virginia Gray -She suggested it could be an ‘advisor request’.
- Wrap Up of Conversation
 - Jody Cormack: There seems to be consensus amongst colleges, suggest next steps is to:
 - Author a draft of the language and place it into amendment form so that we can look at it as a whole group during the GSAC February 2024.
 - Create a sub-group of individuals to craft language in the spring before sending it to the Academic Senate Floor.
 - Those who volunteered: Babette Benken, Mary Anne Rose, Virginia Gray

11:53-11:58pm: *What’s Happening at the Graduate Center*: Kim Scatton, Graduate Center Director

- [Graduate Travel Fellowship](#) – Open December 1 for Spring 2024 Funding Application
- [IRB Workshop for Grad Students](#) – Monday, Nov 20, 5:30-6:30pm
- [Statement of Purpose – GC Review](#)
 - Undergrad and grad students applying to graduate school this admissions cycle can obtain feedback on SOP and Resumes. 1-2 week turnaround.
- [Info Session for Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program](#) - December 5, 2023

Announcements

- [Graduate Equity Fellowship for Spring 2024 Only – December 1](#)
- Fall 2024 Admissions
 - Accept/Deny + \$150 Enrollment Deposit
 - International Apps due March 15
- Financial Aid packages will be late – likely April
- Happy Holiday Season and New Year!

11:58-11:59: Good of the Order?

12:00: Adjournment

Adjourned at 11:48am

Next GSAC meeting: February 15, 2024