



Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)
Minutes
Thursday, September 21, 2023
10:30am-12:00PM

10:30-10:31: Call Meeting to Order – Chair, Dina Perrone

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

10:35-10:40: Introductions (Name, College, Dept/School/Program)

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|-----------|-----------|
| Romo | Alejandra |
| Chauhan | Aishwarya |
| Terzic | Vesna |
| Murdock | Caitlyn |
| Gray | Virginia |
| Sinchak | Kevin |
| Shin | HoWook |
| Biolchino | Erin |
| Dunagan | Colleen |
| Rose | Mary Anne |
| Sterk | Lindsay |
| Hung | Pei-Fang |
| Portnoi | Laura |
| Schrank | Sara |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Vargas | Tiffanye |
| Benken | Babette (Absent) |
| Smith | Rod |
| Leij | Feike |
| Byrnes | Anthony |
| Scatton | Kim |
| Cormack | Jody |
| Perrone CHAIR | Dina |
| Wright | Andrew |
| Fascia | Lisa |
| Kim | Eugenia (absent) |
| Tchen | Anthony |

10:41-10:43: Review and Approve March [Minutes](#)

Moved to approve: Jody

Marianne Rose second

Abstain: 6

Reject: 0

10:43-10:45: Review and Approve April [Minutes](#)

Moved to approve: Jody

Marianne Rose second

Abstain: 5

Reject: 0

10:46-10:50: Update GSAC Charge - Pei-Fung Hung

- The Senate Executive Committee is discussing two points related to GSAC's charge
- 1. Can an MPP chair the committee?
- 2. Does the charge need to be opened to edit Dina Perrone's title from Director of Graduate Studies to Associate Dean of Graduate Studies?
 - o When the committee was formed, CSULB had a Director of Graduate Studies, who was designated per the committee's charge to chair this committee. The Director of Graduate Studies was a member of the faculty. That position no longer exists and has been morphed into the Associate Dean of Graduate

Studies, an MPP. Given GSAC is an Academic Senate committee, the question arose if an MPP can chair the committee. The majority of Senate committees have clauses saying that only faculty can chair the committee, but this committee did not have this charge. Senate Executive Committee is deciding if that needs to be added.

- Pei-Fang will bring the decision of Senate Exec to the October meeting.

10:51-11:00: *Overview of GSAC Meetings: AY 23-24*

- Grad Student Pulse – Monthly
- What’s Happening at the Graduate Center – Monthly
- Presentations: Strategic Plan (Sept.); Grad Student Surveys (Oct.); Career Dev Center for Grad Students (Nov); Marketing Grad Programs (Sam Anvari-Graphic Design/Nov.); Grad Health & Wellness (Dr. Zavala /Feb.)
- Discussion Topics: Spring Retreat Topics, AI in Culminating Activities (Continued), & Repeat/Delete for Grads (Oct.)
 - Currently, it is CSULB policy (14-01 and in the revision awaiting Senate reading) that when a graduate student does not pass a course (C or above) and repeats the course, the initial course grade does not delete but is averaged in to the new course grade. Some programs have asked that we revise this policy. The Chancellor’s Office allows each CSU to determine how to handle repeated courses for graduate students. If GSAC seeks to revise, they would need to make an amendment when the policy arrives on the Senate floor, which Pei-Fung hopes will be this academic year.
- GSAC Suggestions?
 - No suggestions provided, the structure will remain, and input will be welcomed via email to dina.perrone@csulb.edu before the next GSAC

11:01-11:11: *Graduate Student Pulse: Alejandra Romo & Aishwarya Chauhan*

- Graduate students are concerned about:
 - The CSU Wide tuition increase
 - Access to services for the Undocumented community
 - Availability of parking on campus
 - Food availability for Assistants working on on-campus
 - Jobs and internships availability for international and undocumented students

11:12-11:30: *Presentation: [Graduate Studies Strategic Plan](#), Jody Cormack*

- GSSI – The previous Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Cecile Lindsay, convened the Graduate Student Success Initiative to expand graduate student resources and programming.
- Due to Beach 2030, Graduate Studies began to create a strategic plan in earnest. The new Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Jody Cormack, met with individuals in qualitative research exercise in 2019 to talk about specific issues and goals. It has been revisited and finalized this past year. We now have our first ever Grad Studies Mission/Vision and Tag Line
- After Jody reviewed all priorities, she asked for input:
 - Tiffanye Vargas - Be with other graduate students. Jody’s response: interprofessional networking. And not only have 1 large space, but also smaller spaces around the campus (for grad employees/offices or meeting) As we’re moving towards a multi-purpose use of space, this may be something we can resurface.
 - Ho Wook Shin – Creating a culture of grad studies that they should be developing professional expertise. More opportunities for professional development. Jody – weakness amongst grad students is networking amongst students. Travel funding to conferences, Sally Casanova funding for exploring PhD. Maybe we need to look at students obtaining the professional experience on campus, rather than just GTF, where funding is limited.
 - Pei-Fang Hung – more doctoral students with unique needs. And so glad to see ‘provide support, prep, and dev opportunities for grad advisors’ – Ask for a centralized place for opportunities in GA/SA/ISA roles. Jody response – Grad student tuition waivers, or GA/TA’ships – our third goal. Looking at different

mechanisms to use limited funding. It would help if the Presidents go to the Chancellor's office to support a structure that connects us to the UC's. We are growing professional doctoral programs – DPH/AuD/OTD –that fit our university mission and support workforce needs. Because they have differential tuition, then can use funds for culture creation for doctoral students. AB 656 should/will be passed that will allow CSU's the ability to offer more doctoral degrees, similar to how CC's make asks for

- Tiffanye Vargas – Cross sharing ideas with one another of recruitment. Etiquette Dinner – working workshop with practical skills to help them get ahead and get jobs.
 - Caitlin Murdock – Has concerns on ceiling on compensation and work/effort for faculty. Caitlin also notes that Professional Development for graduate students is important but having actual sense of community is critical too. Jody's response: she agrees, GS has looked at s-factor many times, and s-factor is handled so differently college-to-college, and even amongst departments within a college. It is expensive and urges programs to consider if comp or projects are more appropriate for some programs, rather than theses. PhD bound students should do theses, but for careers in practice, a project may be more applicable. With fewer theses on campus, it may be easier to stabilize the s-factor. Virginia Gray responded via Chat – “Jody, that aligns with our new program model. Capstone project is the culminating activity”
 - Kevin Sinchak – We talk to our students and make sure we understand the differences in how the cohorts are coming together and interacting. Because Kevin's program is smaller, many tend to work closely together... Jody response: yes, cohorted programs and programs with labs tend to create community. Part of the strategic plan is to also grow our support for graduate students during nontraditional hours and for those with families, this includes graduate student housing. One idea to have a SharePoint where ideas can be shared.
 - Virginia Gray– Understanding how to grow graduate programs with consideration of total WTU's is critical. She is noticing that if we grow in one area, we'll have to cut in another. Jody's response: as programs submit proposals for program development and, there is a chart that was added, rather than an open space, that queries who will teach, and what will current faculty not teach, will you hire a new faculty member to teach the other courses?
- GSAC will continue these conversations and seek volunteers to be join in implementing initiatives.

11:31-11:41: *Discussion Topic: [AI in Culminating Activities](#)*

- Cecilia Parades shared advantages and disadvantages to the use AI in thesis citations.
- This discussion will continue next month.
- GSAC members were asked to connect with their faculty constituents about how they would like to approach the challenges with AI.

11:42-11:52: Enrollment Services Transition, Pei-Fang Hung

- Enrollment Services will move from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs. The decision was made by the President, without transparency around the decision-making process and absent of consultation with Academic Affairs, Senate Exec, and the Academic Senate. This is concerning as shared governance is one of CSULB's core values and part of campus culture. Yet, this decision was made unilaterally.
- Sara Schrank – asked what are the implications for our programs/colleges? Jody's response: it is more of a faculty governance concern. While the unit will move to SA, its functions will remain the same.

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

- Shared a unique (and quite sweet) experience she had earlier this week in the Grad Center with two students
- Highlighted the GRE Test Prep course
- The new college handouts were sent to print on Monday

Announcements

- Grad Entrance Survey – Live in SSO – encourage new grad students to complete
- Sept. 15 - Sept. 29: [Pre-submission Consultation for Theses and Dissertations](#)
- Sept. 22 - Nov. 3: [Fall 2023 Thesis Signature Page Submission Period](#)
- Fall 2024 Admissions

- Accept/Deny + \$150 Enrollment Deposit
- International Apps due March 15

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

12:00: Adjournment

Next GSAC meeting: October 19