



Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

10:30AM-12:00PM

<https://csulb.zoom.us/j/88252984023>

10:30-10:31: Call Meeting to Order – Sara Nourazari (Chair, GSAC)

10:32-10:42: Introductions

10:43-10:44: Review and Approve Agenda

Approved.

10:45-10:47: Review and Approve [April Meeting Minutes](#)

Approved.

10:48-10:55: Academic Senate Updates – Neil Hultgren (Chair, Academic Senate)

- Senate has had 2 meetings so far; polices that have been in discussion
 - Policy on GVAR
 - Policy on deadline for adding classes (1985); the council has already advised, but a few edits needed for language purposes
 - Rights and privileges on a Emeritus for faculty and have a gender-inclusive naming convention to Emeritx
- The Provost office seeking to have a unified grade appeal form; if colleges are interested to know their colleges rep. Neil can provide the link to the roster for the representative of each college
- Currently working on staffing the search committee for the Dean of Graduate Studies positions; looking for tenured faculty (4) to participate and one lecture (1) - minimum half-time base
- Questions?
 - Sarah: About the Meritus language change; is the change going to be uniformed?
 - It does not talk about if you get to choose which one, but allows the ability to talk about the category without talking about it in a gender-restrictive form
 - Dina: What about staff, if they would like to be on it?
 - Staff Council met last Friday and may have already selected a person for the committee; there is a staff member to be on the committee.

10:56-11:06: Updates and Reminders from GS –Dina Perrone (Interim Dean of Grad Studies)

- Regularly check Canvas updates and review the monthly newsletter
 - Remind your graduate advisors that the Canvas exist for resources and updates
 - The syllabus is updated for graduate advisors to have access to it.
 - Will update the GSAC roster to be able to receive the newsletter as well.
 - Sarah shared that students get their own student monthly newsletter for updates, so to be sure not to share the graduate advisor newsletter to students as there is specific information for only geared for advisors.
 - At the end of the newsletter is a checklist of things that need to be completed.
- Confirm deadlines on the [Grad Advisors webpage](#) are accurate and up-to-date
 - We utilize the site to update the students about the deadlines for their programs for application and accepting/declining admission decisions
- Remind students to complete the entry survey (available through student SSO)

- Melt & Yield Workshop: Sep 23rd 1pm in LIB 201
 - Hosted by Dina, Neil, and EAB
 - Talk about enrollment and get people to commit to come to your program
- In effect as of Fall 2025:
 - PS 25-11 Policy on Master's Degrees
 - One highlighted, students can now repeat and forgive one course for less than 6-units; and two courses for 6-units and above.
 - PS 25-12 Policy on Master's Level Program Culminating Activities
 - Questions?
 - None

11:07-11:18: Presentation: GS Annual Report & Executive Summaries – Dina Perrone (Interim Dean of Grad Studies)

- Sharing a snapshot of each college as well that gets shared with the Provost of what is happening with statistics of their students.
- Graduate Education Lifecycle: admission > grad advising > student success & belonging > graduation > creative, service, scholarly activity
- Scope of supports that GS provides:
 - Recruiting; guiding graduate advisors, honoring graduate student success, offer variety of workshops for professional development; writing supports to name a few
- Recruitment & access activity
 - EAB
 - 5 Regional grad fairs
 - 100% of those who met with the GC Coordinators and applied to CSULB got admitted (YAY!)
- Spring 2025, the GC received 232 admissions-related inquiries: prerequisites,
- Guiding grad advisors
 - Data summit
- Honoring Grad student success
 - \$54,000 graduate travel fellowship (115 recipients)
 - Deans List
- Enhancing Graduate Student
 - 871 attended the CSULB-Wide graduate student orientation
 - 4 networking events
 - 200 participates in GradMentor program
 - 93 workshops
- Professional Development
 - Grad Slam
 - Student Research Competition
- Graduation Initiative's
 - 3 Graduate writing retreats (212 students)
 - TDO hosted 8 workshops; 800 communications
 - 458 Exceptions to Policy
- New for AY 25-26
 - Any student who is awarded the Outstanding Thesis Award it will be recorded in the library database, and it will be seen when you search up the students
 - Family Study Nights
 - Teaming up with CSNM with Department of Math & Stat to be consultants for our graduate students
 - Graduate Center FAQ webpage established
- Questions?
 - Alaine: Shared props and thank you to the team and sharing they have seen a difference.
 - Attendees echoing sentiments
 - Alejandra: Echoing the thanks; how are you envisioning the internship with the Applied Statistics program? Will there be an in-class presentation?

- There will be 2 students; a graduate student will submit a request in need of statistical support. Dr. Moon will review the request and then assign the request to an intern.
 - The student intern will then address the request and both parties will sign a document in agreement of the service that is being provided and if it is for thesis or dissertation
 - This is currently geared for thesis and dissertation; but if there are more requests for advance classes it will be revised for the workflow.
- Executive Summaries
 - Located in GSAC folder – college-specific summaries
 - Content derived from the annual report to tailor to college-specific data points; it was shared with the Deans of each college
 - If you have any specific data points that you are wondering about and want to be highlighted in the summary to let Dina know.
 - Like common exceptions
 - Number of thesis

11:19-11:29: Discussion Topic 1: Prerequisite Guidance for Applicants – Ammisha Opoku-Boamah & Jackie Morales
(Graduate Center Coordinators)

- Updating program's website to provide clear explanation of the following:
 - What prerequisites they need before they apply
 - What prerequisites they need before enrolling
 - What prerequisites they can take when they are admitted
- This type of clear communication will provide support for applicants in their timeline in applying to the program and when they should have those specific courses completed.
- Remind graduate advisors to update the admissions information and contact information

11:30-11:35: Graduate Student Pulse – Fahim Shaikh and TBD

- Not in attendance

11:36-11:41: Establishing Beach EDGE Policy– Timeline: Goal of Finalized Draft by Mar 27th

- Subcommittee Formation
- Beach EDGE is a blended bachelor's & master's program
- Currently 20 established programs; with several in the pipeline
- There is a CSU-wide blended programs policy; however, there has been different things that have been on notice in the adoption on the CSULB campus. Such considerations include:
 - Double majors how it impacts to be in a blended
 - State-side and self-supported blended programs
 - Blend from different campuses
- Questions?
 - Sara: Does the policy need to go to Senate Executive Committee or CPEC?
 - Neil: It will be sent to Executive Committee and they will funnel it to the committee that is appropriate to review
 - Alysa: Will there be a flowchart available?
 - GS to work on creating the flowchart
 - Rebecca: Are there conversations about teaching credential programs? There is a ITEP program (it has been able to withstand at CSULB but not at other campuses (which is a 4+1 program)?
 - Moving towards combined masters with teaching credential, how to integrate these teaching credential programs (4+2).
 - Dina – 12 units are counting from the credential to master's degree, this is not changing
 - Blended certificates: 15 units counting towards master's degree.
 - Deans have not talked about this much however.
 - Alysa—Currently working on the first blended state side and self-support program
 - Students can mix classes with state side support
 - Piloting the first one

- For future convo: financial aid implications
- For planning
 - Forming sub committees for **establishing beach edge policy** with at least 1 representative from each college or college director
 - Call to add names on chat to form subcommittees
 - CHHS- Marissa Hansen
 - COB - Rod Smith
 - CPaCE – Alysa
 - COB – Lindsay Sterk
 - CLA-Sarah Schrank
 - COE- Yu Yang
 - Tia Santana: COTA
- CED ensure they are representative especially because some things are on the horizon surrounding these policies—Rebecca will think of who to add to the sub committee

11:42-11:52: Discussion Topic 2: What GS-Related Issues/Challenges would you like to tackle in GSAC this AY?

- Day at the Beach for graduate programs
 - Alysa—different time than when we do it for undergraduate students
 - Think about when we can do something like this for recruitment
 - Rebecca
 - Get funding from provost office to increase grad student enrollment since it is important
 - Dina
 - Would like to know what colleges do “admit day”
- Admission
 - Develop a rubric
- Doctoral policy
- Dina
 - No thorough doctoral policy on campus
 - No guiding policies
 - Create a policy in GSAC in collaboration with colleges
- Neil
 - Supports this initiative because of his experience meeting with a student who wanted more info on the policies
 -
- Developing rubrics for admissions review
- Scholarships
 - Alejandra Priede
 - What can be done about supporting students learning about more financial resources for graduate school
 - Identifying students who are in the most financial need
 - Dina
 - This will become more challenges with federal funding and loans being taken away
 - No longer have URD rep that Dina can work with – invite URD to GSAC to ask what development efforts
- Credentials
 - Will circle back since no one voiced
- AI policies in the classroom and culminating activities—popular one
 -

11:53-11:57: What’s Happening at the Graduate Center – Ammisha Opoku-Boamah & Jackie Morales (Graduate Center Coordinators)

- New FAQ Page: <https://www.csulb.edu/graduate-center/frequently-asked-questions-fags>

- Workshops: <https://www.csulb.edu/graduate-center/workshops-events>
- CSULB Grad Fair | Thursday, October 2nd from 11am - 3pm
- Grad Student Mix N' Mingle | Thursdays, October 30th from 12pm - 2pm

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

12:00: Adjournment