



Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025

10:30AM-12:00PM

<https://csulb.zoom.us/j/82802314964>

10:30-10:31: Call Meeting to Order – Deepali Bhandari (Chair, GSAC)

10:32-10:33: Review and Approve Agenda

Approved

10:34-10:35: Review and Approve [February Meeting Minutes](#)

Approved

10:36-10:45: Deepali provided updates and reminders on behalf of Dina Perrone (Interim Dean of Grad Studies)

- Thesis & Dissertation Office communication update (memo sent on March 12, 2025)
 - Our external reviewer recommended that we include thesis advisors in communications with grad students about edits needed to be made in their submitted manuscripts for evaluation
 - Thesis advisors are responsible to ensure that their students' thesis formatting is aligned with TDO/campus requirements
- Exit survey available through student SSO
 - Please encourage your graduating students to complete the survey. It informs us about what we can do to enhance their graduate experience at CSULB
 - **Question Asked:** Are we allowed to provide feedback on the questions that are included in the Exit Survey?
 - Babette provided the history of the exit survey's development, detailing the iterative process of its extensive refinement including feedback by the Graduate Advisory Panel (the predecessor of GSAC) leading up to its current implementation.
 - The data is available via [CSULB Dashboard](#)
 - Follow up question – not to reinvent the wheel but can there be opportunity to tweak the survey if someone has suggestions?
 - Deepali suggested that Dina could discuss the exit surveys in the next GSAC meeting and/or grad advisor summit
- AY25-26 GEF nominations received. Decisions can be expected by the first week of April.
- Grad Slam (deadline - March 24), we need judges!
 - Non-STEM and STEM categories, a 3-minute competition. Not a huge time commitment.
 - Please consider volunteering yourself or ask colleagues.
- Grad Writing Retreat (April 2, 10:00-7:00)
 - Dedicated writing space for graduate students; lunch and dinner will be provided for students
 - Deadline for students to register 3/24/2025

- Data Summit for Grad Advisors (April 11, 10:30-2:30)
 - Please complete the survey that was sent. It will help us plan the summit agenda
- Day @the Beach (April 12) - please promote your BeachEDGE programs!
 - If you need flyers or recruitment materials, Graduate Studies will be happy to provide those.

10:46-10:59: Update on status of Graduate Education policies in Senate – Neil Hultgren (Chair, Academic Senate)

- <https://www.csulb.edu/academic-senate>
- There is a meeting today (3/20), will continue to review master's level culminating activities policy.
- Three amendments that will likely be discussed during the senate meeting today
 - Lowering the minimum number of thesis committee members from 3 to 2.
 - Some argued in favor because it provides flexibility to smaller programs and addresses workload issues. Programs can still choose to require 3.
 - Some argued that a minimum of 3 should be preserved to have multiple expertise and perspectives available.
 - Projects: If the requirement to have a committee should be at the discretion of the program.
 - Some programs treat it like a thesis where they have three members in the committee, while other programs may not have the capacity to have 3 and want to only have one.
 - A concern that only having one perspective is not enough. At the very least it should have two members.
 - COB shared that most of their projects are part of a capstone course with a single instructor. It will be difficult to find another instructor to be on the project.
 - Comprehensive (comp) exam should have a grading rubric
 - This amendment was proposed because not having a rubric is an issue in case of appeals. Good to have one to establish expectations and grading norms.
 - CLA opposes requiring a mandatory grading rubric due to the wide variety of exam formats and disciplinary approaches across departments.

11:00-11:30: Presentation - Current Trends in Graduate Education Across the US and California

Guest: Chris Hansen, Vice President, University Partnerships at Everspring

- Chris provided a comprehensive analysis of the grad student market in California.
- Chris will be a guest speaker at the upcoming grad advisor summit; [slides from today's meeting](#) will be shared. Note: Copyrighted. For internal CSULB use only. Can't be shared outside CSULB.
- **Question:** What are variables and components that we can use to attract those who are going to private institution to come to the Beach instead.
 - Tuition cost!
 - Private institutions have a larger marketing budget.

11:31-10:35: Graduate Student Pulse (Quinn Bentley and Johnathon Davis)

- Deepali shared that Dr. Perrone hosted a Meet the Dean and Senator-A-Large twice last week, and it may become a regular occurrence
- Dean Perrone will also write to Johnathon and Quinn to schedule a meeting with them.

- Johnathon discussed the idea of hooding graduate students at the commencement ceremonies.
 - It is a college-level decision. Example, in CNSM most departments wanted to have their private ceremonies; programs that opt to hood at the Commencement, there are platforms to do so at the site.

11:36-11:45: Discussion – Graduate Studies Generative AI Guidelines ([Updated Draft](#))

Guest: Cecilia Paredes, Lead, CSULB Thesis and Dissertation Office

- Edits made based on feedback received from GSAC in the last meeting.
- Reminder that this is not a grad studies or CSULB **policy**, but **general guidelines**. Programs can adapt and edit to program needs. The campus has its own campus-wide guidelines and expectations on AI.
- Cecilia is planning to put the approved guidelines onto the Thesis & Dissertation Office webpage
- Brief discussion on the Turnitin AI threshold for theses. Are there any colleges that currently have a set threshold on the Turnitin report on AI generated content in theses? What is perceived as acceptable vs unacceptable?
 - COE shared about specific parts or sections of the thesis being important for setting the threshold for AI generated content; for example, introduction vs discussion/conclusions.
 - It was shared that Turnitin does not report AI generated content that is less than 20%.
 - To continue this conversation at the next GSAC meeting

11:46-11:58: (Time Certain): Update on Immigration Policies for International Students

Guests: Eugenia Kim (Director) and Ignacio Castor (Advisor), International Students and Scholars

- Issues especially with international student visas.
- The "supportive" role of the Department Homeland Security liaison to our campus has now shifted more to that of "Enforcement" instead; Center for International Education (CIE) is ensuring all international students are in compliance; if there are any questions that students have, ask them to email cie-student@csulb.edu
- Impending travel ban expected to be issued either tomorrow or March 31
 - [Travel and Re-Entry to U.S. | California State University Long Beach](#)
 - Some countries marked in red, orange, yellow categories
 - Depending on the color code, visas will either not be issued from those countries or significantly delayed
 - We have students in countries in the lists and may not be issued visas if their country is in the red category
 - Students need to keep this in mind if planning travel abroad during spring break or otherwise
 - Anticipate increase in visa denials and delays; Contact Sean Cochran (Director of International Admissions) if you have any questions on visas especially for Fall 2025 intake
 - Basic needs funding is also decreased which is impacting international students
 - If recruiting international students to your graduate programs, you must consider the modality of hybrid as there is a minimum number of in-person units that international students must enroll in to maintain status.

- CIE has drop-in hours that are a resource for students. An email will be sent out to all students about the travel ban and cautionary heads up to students about traveling.
- **Question Asked:** A student has an I-20 expiring in May but they are defending this month. Does the thesis need to be cleared before the I-20 expires?
 - Yes, the students will need to complete their thesis before the I-20 expires. It is a case-by-case basis if an extension is needed.
 - They do need to leave U.S. if the I-20 expires before completion.
 - There may be option to consider for them to finish in their home country if I-20 expired.

11:58-12:00: What's Happening at the Graduate Center: Jackie Morales and Ammisha Opoku-Boamah (Graduate Center Coordinators)

- <https://www.csulb.edu/graduate-center/workshops-events>

12:00: Adjournment

Next GSAC meeting: April 17, 2025

(Approved)