



**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**  
Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

**MINUTES**

**Meeting #2 11:00-12:30PM**

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**

11:00: Call Meeting to Order – Chair, Dina Perrone – called to order @ 11:04 am

11:01-11:02: Review and Approve Agenda - MSP

11:03-11:04: Review and Approve Minutes - MSP

11:05-12:00: [PS 14-01 Requirements for Master's Degrees](#)

- [Draft Policy on Master's Degrees](#)

- 2.1 and 2.2 GPA

- Title V dictates 3.0 GPA in program of study. Currently, graduate students need a 3.0 GPA in program of study, but CSULB is tracking cumulative and calculated based on all UD and graduate-level coursework attempted. We are discussing the feasibility of modifying policy to track only program of study.

- Discussion:

- How many programs have students taking courses outside their program of study? Should the courses not be in their program of study, even if they are pre-requisites?
  - There are examples of times when students take courses outside their program of study, for example instead of taking GS 700.
  - Suggestion that GPA should be based on what they have taken for that degree.
  - Sometimes students take prerequisites after completing B.A. and before matriculating into graduate program but it then becomes part of GPA.
  - Is it possible to keep 2.1 and 2.2 and have the higher one be used to determine whether making satisfactory progress – this about using non-program courses to raise GPA.
    - It seems this idea suggests that remedial courses are being rolled into GPA to save them from probation while at the same time other students are doing their graduate coursework and being put on probation – inequitable.
    - Would this then be a way of avoiding, bypassing, Title V.
    - Would it require extra logistics to know what is happening in program of study.

- Would we then need a degree planner (online?) for tracking program of study? Or would we need to modify catalog to say any of these courses are part of program of study.
- Andrew: Must be careful with financial aid, when student at graduate level is taking undergraduate coursework, financial aid should not be covering that coursework, even with prerequisites. Unless it is required by the program, it should not be covered. Important to dialog with financial aid.
- Clarification - undergraduate level coursework can be covered by Financial Aid if it is at the 300/400 level and part of the degree program requirements. 100/200 level courses are not covered by Financial Aid, and are not part of a post-baccalaureate GPA
  - Students in probation in early childhood education program had taken upper division undergraduate courses with their financial aid.
  - I just confirmed with our Director of FA that the coursework can only be covered under FA if the 300/400 level coursework is part of their “required coursework”
- If opt to keeping program of study GPA, students still have time make adjustments (raise grades). 2.1 is problematic in general because it treats those who have attended CSULB as undergrad differently than those who have not.
- Vesna – large number of URM students who have not had the benefit of high school courses that adequately prepare them for graduate program, so they need the undergraduate work to prepare them and provide a cushion. Masters specializes but that requires background in that area, but CSULB only offers Civil Engineering degree w/o specialization, so once they are accepted and choose an area, they often need to go back and take UD courses in that area.
- Would it be possible to make program of study more flexible by adding some of those UD courses as options within the program, so that they could still take those courses as needed and thus be included in program of study.
  - Could we see if it is possible to extend academic probation for some programs? It is already an option that can be requested by advisors. Jody does do mass/blanket exceptions to policy.
  -
- Hearing support for removal of 2.1.

- Removal of it will still have to be vetted by Senate.
  - Vote on removal of 2.1 – passed with majority (67%) yes.
- 2.9.1 Revalidation of coursework
  - CSU-wide Associate Deans have been having a lot of meetings about revalidation and most have a limit on percentage that they will revalidate. Most limit to 33%.
  - The need to revalidate coursework because of exceeding 7-year period has not been a huge issue.
  - Suggestion that faculty should retain control of determining if students have maintained currency.
- 6.0 Concurrent Credential & Master's
  - Currently, the policy is only saying that you “may” enroll.
  - There are students currently in this situation.
  - Concern about disjuncture between the norm in the university and what is common in CLA. While policy says they can do it, financial aid can get devastated and that is not clear to students. Does seem difficult to manage. Issue keeps coming up.
  - People are doing it already, so it does not need to be in the policy. If it is working, carry on, but against sanctioning it in a policy because it does have negative implications for financial aid and do not want to encourage it even though it is possible to do.
  - Sometimes there is a small overlap as they finish one and move into the other.
  - Concerns about losing students over this concurrent practice being limited or prevented and if it is not in the policy will that lead to people saying no more.
  - Feedback from student representative who was in a credential program and then began a master's program, and then returned to credential: Enrollment Services does not allow you to have two paths simultaneously, so it makes it difficult to get into classes.
  - Advocate for changing in consultation with...to with permission from the master's program and the credential program to affirm that the programs need to agree on the feasibility.
    - Support for need for approval from both programs.
  - There is a (SoP) master's program where the credential is built into it. Do other master's programs write those requirements into their catalog?
    - Yes, the MATs they are set up so that complete simultaneously in 30 units.
    - Ours are credentials at 45 units with very few that end up counting in a master's program.
  - Vote to add 6.0 and 6.1 to policy: majority vote to retain both.
- 7.0 Concurrent Degrees
- 8.0 2<sup>nd</sup> Master's
  - 8.2 Why is this necessary if this section is about a second degree?
    - Addresses if students are taking a master's degree elsewhere when they join a master's here.
  - Financial aid does not cover a 2<sup>nd</sup> master's degree.
  - 8.2 deleted.
  - Deleting 21 units in 8.3.C and replacing with 70%.

- GWAR will no longer be required for graduate students – international or native. Change goes into effect Fall 2023. Mandate put out by the CO.
  - We can discuss if we would like to have a different writing requirement for graduate students.
  - Mention of GWAR has been deleted from the policy.
- 9.0 Credit earned as Senior
  - Consider how Credit for Prior Learning Policy affects or revised 14-01:
  - *E.g., If credit for Prior Learning is awarded through portfolio assessment, a student's university record will carry notation of credit, but no grade will be recorded. This credit awarded will not affect a student's grade point average at CSULB.*
  - CEPC is still working on the policy.
  - Thank you for input that people have put on the document in Sharepoint.

#### 12:01-12:22: Discussion Topics

- Wanted to bring these up as programs plan for fall admits. Has been a lot of discussion about yields (Dina and Jody).
  - International has increased by 125%. Domestic has decreased by 25%.
  - University discussing ways to increase yields.
  - YTD F22: 10,099
  - Enrollment could set up a more formal acceptance process so that we can have them go through step to say yes, I'm coming, which would assist with tracking. Currently, they are automatically matriculated, and they are not required to accept/decline.
    - Currently, some programs send them a form to accept/decline.
    - It is best practice to ask the students to go into Enrollment Services and accept or decline.
- Program Event for Admitted Graduate Students?
  - Do we hold a student day for those admitted where we invite students to campus?
  - There are programs that hold an Open House prior to enrollment.
  - Interest in idea of inviting them before they make their decision.
  - Brian and Dina discussed holding an event. Brian has had students ask if they will be invited to a pre-commitment event.
- Program New Grad Student Orientation?
  - Some hold orientations and/or meetings with advisor.
  - Some colleges hold college-wide orientation.
  - Some programs are selecting students to hold a Zoom session and invite admitted students – no faculty attending – more open Q&A.
  - Have had current students calling new admits and checking in on them.
  - Encouraging each program to hold its own orientation as a complement to Brian's university-wide orientation and to provide a more specific introduction to the program.
  - Are people moving to in person orientations?
- Anything you would like to discuss at the next meeting?
  - Please email Dina agenda items – discussion topics based on need and desire.

#### 12:23-12:28: Announcements and Reminders

- Congrats to our [Outstanding Graduate Student Research, Scholarly, & Creative Activities Award](#)

- Zahrasadat Golestanha, Design
  - Grace Ocular, Dual Language Development
- Remind students of the Grad Studies Exit Survey
  - Need to go through their single sign-on to complete the survey.
- Admissions will seek updates to your Cal State Apply – Q4 and Branding
  - Will reach out very soon. Creating a shared folder with instructions rather than the spreadsheet distribution.
  - Will be for 2023 for Spring and Fall.
  - Will show what it currently looks like and can edit in it.
  - This will be how we can indicate which programs are accepting applications in Fall and Spring.
- Invite new GSAC rep to May's meeting

12:28-12:29: Good of the Order?

12:30: Adjournment @ 12:27 pm

Next GSAC meeting: Thursday, May 19, 2022, 11-12:30pm

Respectfully submitted,  
C. Dunagan