



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

MINUTES

Meeting #7 - 11:00-12:30PM - Thursday, April 15, 2021

Approx. 11:01: Call Meeting to Order – Chair, Dina Perrone

Attendees: Dina Perrone, Cory Wright, Kevin Sinchak, Praveen Shankar, Rod Smith, Bryan Rodriguez, Erin Jacobs, Feike Leij, Jacqueline Canales, Jody Cormack, Laura Portnoi, Louis Williams, Mahmoud Albawaneh, Margaret Black, Maria Claver, Mary Anne Rose, Meghan Griffith, Rhianna Williams, Robert Ortiz Archila, Babette Benken, Suzanne Wechsler (note taker)

Review and Approve [Minutes](#)

- *Motion: Maria Claver, 2nd: Mary Anne Rose*

Review and Approve [Agenda](#)

- *Motion: Maria Claver, 2nd: Mary Anne Rose*

Introduction and Welcome of new Student Member - Robert Ortiz Archila

Announcements (Bryan Rodriguez)

[Grad Slam Winners](#)

Research Comp Winners

ScholarWorks available for Summer Project Reports

Reach out to Bryan if interested in meeting with Tracey Mayfield or Cecilia Paredes if you would like to discuss further.

Review Roster and Discuss Terms

- Dina shared the list of all committee members. Because we all started this year, we need to start to stagger our terms. Terms are two years. The proposal is that all current members serve a 1-year term. Per Jody, this is a committee startup issue, so we are trying to figure out how to stagger the roles.
- If as a faculty member you do want to continue next year, your position would not be filled, and you would have a 2-year term. Otherwise, an election will be held to fill the seat.
- CHHS, COE, and COTA will reelect their members to start their 2-year 2021-2022 term
- MaryAnn Rose provided the wording from the charge:

“Membership: One (1) faculty representative (tenured or tenure-track) from each college, elected by the college, with experience as a graduate advisor or coordinator, who shall serve 2 year-terms staggered across colleges”.

Finalize Master’s Programs Culminating Activity Policy Draft

Dina led a review of the following areas to address outstanding questions.

- o **Can thesis committees have at minimum one tenured or tenure-track faculty members rather than two?**

Having 2 TT faculty on a committee could pose challenges for those programs. Changed language to minimum of 1 TT faculty on committees.

- o **Should a maximum number of students on a project committee be delineated?**

Amendment proposed by Laura Portnoi. Language agreed to:

“A project shall be undertaken by an individual student or group, each member of which makes an individually distinct contribution that meets Title V requirements as a project culminating activity...”

- o **Confirmed that *Colleges and Departments are considered academic units.***

- o **Comp Exam Policy.**

Discussed wording of section to clarify that students may not attempt to take the comprehensive exam unless they are advanced to candidacy. Note: This can be a problem for students with advance and take the exam in the same semester.

- o **GSAC as the final arbiter of appeals.**

Question is whether this Committee would be the final arbiter of appeal and if changing a culminating activity something that is appealable. The language regarding the right to appeal was removed.

- o **When can no longer change/request change of culminating activity?**

This is still unresolved. The following edits capture the spirit of what was discussed:

“...In programs with multiple culminating activity options, once a student has attempted the comprehensive exam or been evaluated on the thesis or project, they may not change from one option to another except under extenuating circumstances and with the approval of the graduate advisor, Dean or designee, and the Dean of Graduate Studies...”

NO FINAL RESOLUTION, still discussing at 12:31.

ADJOURN at 12:34

The following Agenda items were not discussed, tabled until next meeting:

- *Vote on Final Master’s Programs Culminating Activity Policy*
- *What is the meaning of a graduate degree? What does it mean to have a graduate degree from CSULB?*

Next GSAC meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11-12:30 pm