



ACADEMIC SENATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Graduate Studies Advisory Committee

Annual Report AY 2023-24

Prepared by: Dina Perrone, Co-Chair

Membership

Elected Members: Vesna Terzic (COE); Caitlin Murdock (CLA-Fall 2023); Virginia Grey (CHHS-Fall 2023) Lei Sun (CHHS-Spring 24); Kevin Sinchak (CNSM); Howook Shin (COB); Alejandra Priede (CED); Rebecca Sittler (COTA)

Student Representatives chosen by ASI: Alejandra Romo (ASI); Aishwarya Chauhan (ASI)

Staff Members designated by College Dean of Graduate Studies: Mary Anne Rose (CED) and Lindsey Sterk (COB)

Academic Senate Designee: Pei-Fang Hung (AS Chair)

Associate Deans or College Designees: Laura Portnoi (CED); Sarah Schrank (CLA); Tiffanye Vargas (CHHS); Babette Benken (CNSM); Rod Smith (COB); Feike Leij (COE); Anthony Byrnes (COTA);

Academic Affairs Representatives: Jody Cormack (Vice Provost); Dina Perrone (Associate Dean of Graduate Studies); Andrew Wright (Admissions), Lisa Fascia(Enrollment Services); Eugenia Kim (CIE); Anthony Tchen (IR&A)

Officers: Sarah Schrank, Co-Chair; Dina Perrone, Co-Chair; Jackie Morales, Historian.

Introduction

The Graduate Studies Advisory Committee met the third Thursday of every month starting on September 15, 2022 through April 20, 2023.

Monthly, GSAC received a report from the Graduate Center about upcoming events and programming, and from the graduate student representatives, when present, about challenges and ideas to promote success.

The AY 23-24 GSAC primarily engaged in discussions on how to reduce administrative barriers, improve recruitment and admissions processes, retain our graduate students, ensure degree integrity, and enhance the graduate student experience. GSAC also handled three graduate student appeals.

Actions and Topics

1. Voted to have a faculty co-chair of GSAC
2. Created a subcommittee to review appeals and render decisions
3. Reviewed the Graduate Studies Strategic Plan
4. Discussed graduate program marketing strategies using social media
5. Reviewed Graduate Advising Duties
6. Outlined NRT waiver allocations and devised a communication plan
7. Added a new deadline for the Fall admissions cycle – February 15
8. Voted to amend the master’s policy to permit repeat/replace for master’s students
 - a. *Master’s students may repeat one (1) course taken at California State University, Long Beach for grade forgiveness when they are in a 59 or fewer unit master’s degree program and earn a grade below the minimum grade required for the course (e.g., D, F, or WU). Master’s students may repeat two (2) courses taken at California State University, Long Beach for grade forgiveness when they are in a 60 or greater unit master’s program and earn a grade below the minimum grade required for the course (e.g., D, F, or WU).*
 - b. *Courses in which the master’s student earned a C can only be repeated for grade forgiveness when the required minimum grade for the course is a B. Courses in which the original grade was the result of a finding of academic dishonesty cannot be repeated for grade forgiveness. Culminating activity courses can never be repeated for grade forgiveness.*
 - c. *For a course’s grade to be forgiven, the Graduate Advisor will notify Enrollment Services of which course and grade to be forgiven. A course grade can only be forgiven once, regardless of the number of attempts. All grades will remain on the student’s academic record, however, the grade and grade points of the forgiven course will not count toward the grade point averages and units earned.*
9. Created language for the thesis and dissertation signature page to address the use of AI and plagiarism
 - a. *By signing below, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this thesis/project/report/dissertation does not contain plagiarized material.*
Name of Thesis Chair/Project Director/Dissertation Chair:
Signature:
 - b. *By signing below, I am in full agreement with the student statement below:*
Student Statement: As the sole author of this thesis/project report/dissertation, I certify that (a) this is my own work, (b) I have properly acknowledged/credited using discipline-standard methods the parts of the work that are not my own, and (c) I have not copied in part or whole, or otherwise plagiarized, the work of others, including AI text generators.
Student Signature:

The Graduate Appeal

1. GSAC's charge states: *GSAC also serves as a body that reviews any relevant graduate appeals for the Dean of Graduate Studies.*
2. Dr. Jody Cormack, the Vice Provost of Academic Programs & Dean of Graduate Studies, received appeals to decisions made on a petition for exception to academic policy.
3. GSAC created a subcommittee comprised of the GSAC chair, three faculty, one associate dean, one administrator/staff outside of the college, and one student,
4. Dr. Jody Cormack, the program, and the appellant were notified of the appeal decisions.

Recommendations for the Campus

Based on these actions, the AY 23-24 GSAC makes the following recommendations to facilitate GSAC's processes, foster the success of graduate students, and improve the quality of graduate programs:

1. Seek opportunities to provide more funding for graduate students and graduate student recruitment

Recommendations for the 23-24 GSAC

1. Suggest the Graduate Center staff be the historian
2. Discuss how the return of the Faculty Director affects the committee Chair.