



Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2024

10:30am-12:00PM

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

10:30-10:31: Deepali called the meeting to order.

10:32-10:33: Deepali introduced Ryan Fischer (Vice Chair, Academic Senate) who is attending the meeting in place of Neil Hultgren (Chair, Academic Senate)

10:34-10:35: Review and Approve Agenda

- Only one student representative for now (Quinn Bentley), so it was suggested to make that change in the agenda for "Graduate Student Pulse"
- Approved with that change.

10:36-10:38: Review and Approve [September Meeting Minutes](#)

- Minutes approved

10:39-10:42: Update on status of Graduate Education policies in Senate – Ryan Fischer (Vice Chair, Academic Senate)

- First reading passed for both Graduate Studies policies.
 - [Policy on Master's Degree](#)
 - [Policy on Master's Level Program Culminating Activities](#)
- Next Thursday (Oct 24) Senate will do second reading.
- Send amendments before the second reading (Wednesday Oct 23 by 5pm).
- For any amendments, email Neil or a senator (Deepali is also senator)

10:43-11:47: Dina chimed in and shared a document with the currently proposed amendments on behalf of GS/GSAC. Documents with proposed amendments are uploaded in the GSAC SharePoint folder. All the amendments were discussed one by one. Feedback from members was solicited on each amendment proposed for both policies and edits were made based on suggestions. Major discussion points on two amendments in Master's Degree policy:

- **Discussion on deleting the current language on process of admission from the policy:**
 - It is process, not policy. Also, not including it into policy leaves room for doing things differently in future. At many other CSUs, this process is reversed, i.e., grad programs review all apps, then send it over to admissions allowing for a more holistic review. There are a lot of non-traditional students who may not meet the requirements based solely on their undergraduate GPA of a degree they may have completed many years ago. A review by the grad program such as evaluating postbac courses, work experience etc. gives students a better chance at admission.
 - Babette echoes Dina.
 - Mary Anne suggests having a larger conversation about this change but is ok removing it from our policy.

- Lisa asked if this change has been shared with Steven Salcido.
- Dina and Steven are already in conversation about this. The goal is to not change the process but just not have it removed from the policy leaving it open for a future discussion if we should do application review differently.
- **Discussion on “Posthumously Awarding Master’s Degrees” amendment:**
 - No current policy exists for awarding master’s degrees posthumously.
 - Awarding of the degree is under the purview of academic affairs and programs, and we need to have a policy in place.
 - Path forward on this amendment:
 - Create a sub-committee to work on the language and send over a draft to GSAC members for comments/approval.
 - Subcommittee – Mary Anne (Education), Lindsay (COB), Sarah (CLA), Deepali (CNSM)
 - Deepali will convene the meeting.

11:48-11:52: Updates from Grad Studies - Dina Perrone (Interim Dean, Graduate Studies)

- Dina and Deepali will advocate on behalf of GSAC for our two policies on the senate floor. Everyone was encouraged to send any additional comments/suggestions/proposed amendments to Dina and Deepali being copied, by Wednesday morning (Oct 23).
- Grade Appeals and Student Access to Canvas (in response to Quinn’s questions in our last meeting)
 - Clear policy on grade appeals that when students request materials, the instructor must provide them.
 - If access to their Canvas course is needed, student can request it from the instructor or approach the Dept Chair.
 - Student can reach out to grad advisor to intervene if part time instructors are not being communicative.
- Summer Session Update
 - Courses that are not part of a CPaCE program will be stateside this summer.

11:53-11:57: *Graduate Student Pulse (Quinn Bentley)*

- Lexi Thicksten resigned as an ASI senate representative, and Quinn suggested Johnathon Davis as her replacement.
- How to solicit feedback from grad students campuswide? What have other student members on GSAC have done to get student input?
 - Microsoft form to collect feedback
 - Graduate student newsletter- Quinn can include his survey here

Discussion on **Academic Disqualification** and **Ideas for Grad Advisors Summit in S25** were tabled for the next meeting.

11:58-11:59 *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: Meeting adjourned.

Next GSAC meeting: November 21, 2024