



Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2023

10:30am-12:00PM

10:30-10:31: Call Meeting to Order – Chair, Dina Perrone

- 10:34

10:32-10:34: Review and Approve Agenda

- Approved at 10:35 by consensus

10:35-10:37: Review and Approve January [Minutes](#)

10:38-10:40: Review and Approve February [Minutes](#)

- The suggestions provided were very helpful. Share with your programs/college.

10:41-10:51: Graduate Student Pulse: Diamond Byrd & Verena Mikhail

- Verena – There is a lot of uproar around commencement. A student came to the recent Senate meeting to discuss the frustration mostly of undergraduate students in being unable to walk across a stage or names being called out.
 - o Dina explained that graduate programs are trying to take advantage of the Angels stadium opportunity, but the commencement team has been slow to coordinate the logistics. There is a contingent of grad students who want an opportunity to be highlighted/showcased.
 - o Dina is meeting with [Parking and Transportation](#) this week to discuss ideas for parking options
 - Caitlin mentioned that parking costs for students (\$15 daily rate) makes meeting for 1:1 advising with students who don't often come on campus very challenging
 - o Mary Anne: Annual Report from Parking Office may be helpful to explain some about the costs <https://www.csulb.edu/parking-and-transportation-services/annual-report>

10:52-11:02: Grad Studies Survey Findings

- Dina officially started as a MPP in Spring 2023. Much appreciated for everyone sharing out information for the survey, so we can learn how to best support advisors, and not assume needs.
- Dina's PPT has the results. Here is an overview:
 - o Communication
 - Majority want communication via email – then newsletter – then BB/Canvas – then meetings – then social media
 - Prefer on a monthly or 2x/month basis.
 - Tiny amount want once a week or other.
 - o Advising Support
 - Majority want a Handbook – maybe a searchable PDF.
 - Lots of people want workshops or both workshops and orientations
 - Would like workshops on admissions/OnBase, International admissions, CS-Link, Campus resources, policies/Exceptions/title 5, recruitment/yields, ARS, GS700/Ed Leave, Inclusive

- Dina is going to start giving mini workshops in Fall 2023.
 - Enrollment Deposit
 - Majority want a required enrollment deposit at \$150 (the UG rate).
- Concerns
 - Kevin Sinchak – seems like the grad advisors stuff in leaking into the summer a bit more. How can we mitigate this?
 - Response: this has been a point of contention since 2008 – in the past, grad advisors were compensated over the summer.
 - advising is a 12-month commitment and Dina realizes that we need some kind of support and reimbursement for that commitment. She has been discussing with Jody and the other CSUs about what they do and trying to figure it out. Right now, it all falls to the College. Jody doesn't have a grad studies budget.
 - Dina will be assessing the cost of graduate programs, when you dig into the CSU data, you'll see that grad programs are 'not costly'. It actually brings in money via grants
 - Jody has been going to Trustee meetings to argue on behalf of grad programs and for CSULB's particularly. Feels like in las visit Trustees were more excited about grad programs and are hoping to see that translate into commitments from CO.
 - Kevin raised the issue caused by pushing increase in enrollments but not maintaining faculty
 - levels. Jody presented to the BOT that the application numbers are large across a variety of programs, and yet we cant grow because we don't have the faculty... we have room for growth, because we have interest, but we do not provide enough resources to faculty to bring them in.
 - Vesna – funding and the structure is out of balance, some restructuring might be needed. SDSU completely restructured the grad programs – and are extremely successful.
 - Response: the CSU Grad Deans meet regularly to discuss these things. A recent win was that Grad Studies meeting with a development officer consistently to discuss funding options for grad programs.

11:03-11:18: Commencement

- Hooding at Angels Stadium, or off the Angels stadium. So far we've heard from 2 programs.
 - Colleen – chairs want to keep it on campus
 - Babbette – on campus, Math and Stats booked a lecture hall, doing the AM of
 - Kevin – USU ballroom for biology at 11am (in order to get to 2pm at Anaheim)
 - Cory – little interest for Anaheim
 - Vesna – supposes to talk at the next council/college meeting... unsure
 - Lindsey – on campus the weekend prior, the COB is 9am at Anaheim.
- Numbers for Spring/Summer 2023:

College	Sp & Su 2023 (M/D)
CED	219
CHHS	637
CLA	198
CNSM	127
COB	306
COE	240
COTA	55
	1782

- Should grad studies consider a separate ceremony exclusively for graduate students?
 - Laura: thank you for thinking ahead of 2024 . CED identifies the following issues with Anaheim: Faculty don't see the students, ND it doesn't make sense to plan something at Angels and not

have any faculty come. =The TIMING seems to be an issue since they are stacked on top of one another, there is no 'room'.

- Caitlin: Agree, CLA Faculty are not interested in Angels, as they cannot find their students in the crowd. It would be worth raising the idea of a grad only commencement and hosted on campus. A program ceremony is nice, but it does not have the pomp and circumstances of an 'institutional event'
- Cory: Does the university have a long term contract with Angels? Can we bring the ceremony back to campus?
- Colleen: COTA departments have similar concern about lack of community in the stadium. Can we do something in the Carpenter Center? There green rooms, security issue is resolved, and the theater seats 1000. Response: Social Work programs are considering carpenter center,
- Andrew: Have we looked at other CSU's and how their ceremonies work? Personally, I was a huge fan of the event at both CSUF and Pomona
- Vesna: is there any information about the petition that is going around by students...
 - Response: We're aware it's out there, a lot of sentiment about the stadium
- Verena: Got sent the petition and it had 14000 signatures.
- Kim: there is technology for commencements that can issue tickets, and students can swap if they need less/more to leverage the Carpenter Center.

11:19-11:41: Applications, Admissions, and Yields: Andrew Wright, Director of Admissions

- Meeting with Associate Deans with preliminary results. At the undergrad level, it's a honed in process.
- Received 11000 grad application, the highest throughout the CSUs.
 - We admitted 3345, and only 1885 enrolled – so there is a large “melt”... a 44%
 - In the undergrad space, there are three more datapoints to ensure students are arriving, enrollment \$, registering for NSO, attendance to NSO (new student orientation)
- Andrew would like to get more granular with the deadlines for grad programs.
- For Fall 2023, students must say yes or no to admit offer and we can run a report to assess if we want to offer admit to additional folks.
 - Overall we have like a 44% melt rate. We admit about 30% of applicants
 - Instituting an enrollment deposit is a great step forward, be a better indicator
 - For those with financial need, and AB 540 students, its already waived.
- We need additional steps so we have more touchpoints.
 - Colleges should think about how to increase yield of grad admits.
- The 44% we lost are “Ghosts”
 - Most chose other grad programs
- There is a mechanism for waitlist to create a “if you admit me, I will come”.
 - Waitlist has shown positive results
- Alternative
 - If denied and moved to 2nd Choice, the applicant is no longer on the 1st choice's list.

11:42-11:50: Graduate Center upcoming opportunities: Kim Scatton

- Student Research Competition: On Friday, March 10, 2023, 70 students participated in the 35th Annual SRC. Of which, 42 were graduate students. From the 9 SRC categories, 4 graduate students placed 1st and 2 graduate students placed 2nd in the competition.
- [Grad Slam](#) at CSULB is a campus-wide competition for the best short (no more than 3-minutes) graduate student research presentation.
 - the deadline submit one's 3-minute recording is Thursday, March 23, 2023.
 - We are seeking faculty judges to review the submissions.

- [Graduate Writing Retreat](#), a full writing "get-away" on March 28, 2023 to make progress on a major writing tasks. The Graduate Center will be serving lunch, dinner and snacks throughout the day (for free) [to those who register](#) by March 24, 2023.
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11:50-11:55pm: Announcements

- Grad Exit Survey - Live
- February 17 - April 7, 2023: Spring 2023 Thesis Signature Page Submission Period
- [Grad Travel Fellowship](#)
- March 24, 2023: Graduate Dean's List Due to Dean of GS
- March 23, 2023: Deadline to submit for [CSULB Grad Slam Competition](#) (\$500; \$300; \$200 awards)
- March 28, 2023: [Graduate Writing Retreat](#), 10am-6pm, LIB 2nd Floor

11:56-11:59: Good of the Order?

12:00: Adjournment

Next GSAC meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2023, 10:30-12:00pm