



Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC)

Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2023

10:30am-12:00PM

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

At 10:33am

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

- Norbert – so moved
- Rod – second

10:35-10:37: Review and Approve March Minutes

Not yet ready to review

10:38-10:48: Graduate Student Pulse: Diamond Byrd & Verena Mikhail

- Notified that there were limited spots for the cultural graduations, lots of backlash, the Chicano/Latino Celebration has 7000 graduates, and there is not enough room to accommodate all of them.
 - o Attendance in cultural celebrations are run by students and supported by faculty and staff. Primarily funded through Student Affairs.
 - o Norbert – Senate is evaluating the funding of graduations, should we redirect funds from Angels back to CSULB on-campus graduation, or adjust funds to the cultural graduations.
- ASI – all three executive positions for the 23-24 AY are filled
 - o Senators at-large are assigned to a specific group of student populations at the beginning part of the semester, and the executive team will make appointments for the 23-24 AY Grad and Transfer Student Senator-at-Large. It may or may not be a grad student.
- Dina shared that GS is in communication with parking, provided data on graduate students who are here Friday/Saturday/Evenings... they recognize that this is a separate student need, and want to figure out how to support.

10:49-11:00: 2022 Grad Exit Survey Findings

- Dina showed a PPT with the data.
 - o Most satisfying part of their program – was their professors! Speaks volumes
 - o Data will be available in Tableau by Fall.
 - o Q from Sean – inquiry for online offering (Dina responded that from an undergraduate perspective first/second year request in-person, and third/forth request online)
- Q Verena: can the travel grant be used for pursuing interviews for PhD programs? (Dina said she'll bring this to the finance people, along with inquiry on childcare support for conferences)
- Q Kevin: Faculty in the classrooms – some faculty have been slow to return to in-person.

11:01-11:16: Grade Inflation (Cory Wright, CLA Grad Director)

- Cory not in attendance – Babette said that there is no grade inflation in CNSM. Is a “C” permissible, or must students obtain a “B” or higher to advance?
- Ho Wook Ship said management, unsure about grad programs. Question, is there are any specific guidelines for grading?
- Lei Sun – cannot speak on behalf of her college, but it is happening in her department. Some instructors are hesitant to give “C” because it may be placed on academic warning...

- Dina – everyone was so accommodating during the pandemic, that they haven't really gotten back to the strict grading they did prior to the pandemic.
- Rebecca – get in between the students and the faculty expectations, we're seeing an awful lot of mental health struggles, and physical struggles – the pandemic is a part of that, and maybe there is a greater culture of students opening up to faculty about their struggles. It's a lot for faculty to adapt.
- Norbert – grade inflation is coming from admin as they are pushing to graduate students. He's not convinced that there is grade inflation. Bummer, we have actually really good teachers at this institution, so students are getting good grades!
- Colleen – if we were going to have a robust conversation, we need to think about DEIA principles to grading. Might be a difference from grading at a grad level – if they are well prepared to success. The bell curve is not the best model.
- Kevin – students don't know how to learn at this time. The information that he's giving them is the same for the past 15 years, but student are unable to learn, remember, tell things back. Are we doing them a disservice if we do not expect them to write more, take notes, and get the information into their head. They are just not the same.
- Laura – it depends on the discipline, the college, there is not a lot of memorization needed in COTA.
- Caitlin – bell curve, yes students can get a C, but that only works if students are getting A's in other classes – but if they get a C, they are likely B students – which can result in probation. Also, many PhD level, anything less than an A is 'failing' – but not really similar for master's.
- Dina response – for every C a student gets, they need to get one A, for every D a student gets, they need to get two As. Advisors can submit a petition for an exception to request extensions to academic warning, Jody supports/approves the warning for another semester.
- Kevin – we have a 3.0 for a masters, why are we letting students in at a 2.7? Cal State Apply (Dina, if you want to change your requirement, then those students who are less than a 3.0 will not be considered and advanced for Admissions).
 - o Admissions: From an undergraduate perspective, CSULB does get a lot of students who hit the 2.5, why am I not admitted? When they get to the master's level, they are only going to be focusing on the area that they love, and in theory, they will do better!

11:17-11:22: Fall 2024 Deadlines (Andrew Wright, Director of Admissions)

- Each program will have their own sheet (branding info, quadrant 4) please share the dates for FY.
 - o Spring – rolled forward the deadlines AS IS
 - o Fall – made great strides in increasing automation – from the time the app is completed, to receiving the official transcripts, files are moved forward within 2 days. While honoring Title V.
 - o we are decreasing the time from when the deadline is for transcripts, you should have apps even faster!
 - o We are adjusting the number of options for graduate application deadlines, from 6 to 4.
 - For Spring Cycle, remain with 3.
- Fall 2024 – we will be instating the enrollment deposit, for students who are admitted, they will be required to pay a \$150 enrollment deposit, unless they have a family contribution of \$0 or DREAM Act students, or life circumstances has changed.
- With the deadlines, comes a slue of communications, once admitted, the expectation is they have to Accept the admission offer, and submit the enrollment deposit.
 - o The deadline is contingent on the student being admitted before the “Recommended date for department decisions” - we have to give approx. 3 weeks for the student to accept
- Strongly encourage the use of the waitlist
 - o (Sean) If student is on waitlist too long, second program won't get a chance, so don't leave them on there too long
 - o Caitlin – when faculty are not around, may be harder to make these decisions
 - Dina – we looked at when most of the deadlines were, there are fewer in the February time. Dina does hear that point, and December would be too early...
 - Caitlin – we used to have a January deadline, and changed because they didn't get as many apps, if we move it to too much later, the applicant are scooped up by other programs.
 - o Lindsay - Just confirming- the ~48 business hours turnaround time between transcripts received and Grad Dept Rev is specific to domestic students/transcripts from domestic institutions? or also applicable to international students studying on visas?

- Sean – no we cant do that.
- Andrew - The 2 day turnaround time is specific to domestic students
- Mary Anne – we got to see what they looked like before submitting on to Cal State Apply... for CED, it says we do not want any additional docs, but the additional docs is open. Are we going to get a chance to review before they are up on Cal State Apply, because we cannot change once its there...
 - Once its live, its live... The additional docs was an international required piece.
- Rebecca – can quadrant 4 handle videos, or attachments – COB using youtube

11:23-11:28: [Cal State Apply Q4](#)

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11:29-11:36: Commencement Update

- Grad studies has been working with commencement. The current agreement is that graduate students would walk through a separate tunnel – so grad students have their own jumbotron...
- In communication to find ways to highlight the work graduate students

11:37-11:41: New IRB Workshop for Graduate Students

- For graduate students studying human subjects, piloting in the summer 2023.

11:42-11:50: Graduate Center upcoming opportunities (Kim Scatton, Grad Center Director)

- CAPS and the Grad Center – working to identify a staff member from CAPS that would physically staff out
- Graduate Student Employment
- Grad School fair for 2022: Thurs, September 15, 2022 from 11am-3pm
- Grad Student Orientation – the afternoon of Thursday August 10

11:50-11:55pm: Announcements

- Grad Exit Survey – Live
- [Grad Travel Fellowship](#)
- **April 21:** Email Dina.Perrone@csulb.edu with highlights about your graduate alumni that includes the degree and year earned **to be featured on a reel** during the CSU-Wide Grad Slam Competition where **Chancellor's Office reps** and members of **the Board of Trustees** will be in attendance.
- **April 27:** [Graduate Center Workshop: Acing Final Exams and Papers](#)
- **April 28:** [Deadline to register for Cultural Graduation Celebrations](#)
- **April 28-29:** [CSU-Wide Student Research Competition](#)
- **May 5:** [CSU-Wide Grad Slam Competition](#)
- **May 12:** Dissertation Submission Deadline
- **June 2 - July 14:** Thesis Summer Submission Period
- **August 10:** Virtual Incoming Graduate Student Orientation

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

12:00: Adjournment

Next GSAC meeting: Fall 2023