

**2012-13 FACULTY SENATE  
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

Approved: *September 18, 2012*

**September 4, 2012**

Members Present: Barakatt, Blanton, Cowan, Hamilton (Chair), Hembree, Kaplan, Miller, Reddick, Sprott  
Members Absent: Heather (Sabb), Wassmer  
Guests: Chevelle Newsome

1. **Call to order:** Called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.
2. **Minutes of April 17, 2012:** Minutes of April 3, 2012 were approved as distributed.
3. **Information Items**
  - a. **Report from Chair:**
    - Chair Hamilton welcomed committee members and introductions were made.
    - Chair Hamilton discussed the possibility of changing GSPC's meeting dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. A discussion took place and it was decided that for now, GSPC would continue to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in Sacramento Hall 275.
    - Chris Miller voiced concerns regarding the IPP rankings. Further discussions will be taking place to work out the details and final ranking.
  - b. **Report on Executive Committee actions:**
    - No actions were reported.
  - c. **Report on Senate actions:**
    - Chair Hamilton announced that the actual election for Chair of GSPC will take place this Thursday, September 6, at the Senate meeting. She also reported that her term will be for the fall semester only, while Julian Heather is on sabbatical.
  - d. **Report on CSU actions:**
    - Miller expressed concerns over possible upcoming budget cuts and the implementation and effect they would have on graduate courses.
  - d. **Report from Graduate Dean:**
    - Dean Newsome informed the Committee that the McNair Scholars received funding through a large grant for the next five years.
    - Dean Newsome announced that Spring Graduate admissions opened on August 1<sup>st</sup> and will close September 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, that Fall 2013 Graduate admissions will open on October 1<sup>st</sup> and close on March 1. Dean Newsome will be informing all

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Graduate Coordinators, Dept. Chairs and all relevant campus folks of these deadlines shortly.

- The first Graduate Coordinator meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14 in the Orchard Suite at the University Union at 9:30 a.m.
- Dean Newsome announced that federal regulations regarding financial aid to graduate students has changed. She wanted everyone to know that continuing graduate students may not know and will need to be reminded that their loan may/may not be deferred depending upon the length of their loan and other factors. Please impress upon all graduate students that it is imperative that they communicate with our Financial Aid Office to make sure that these changes do not affect them.

**e. Report on Graduate Advisory Council actions**

- Dean Newsome reported that Graduate Council is currently in need of a GSPC liaison. The first meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-11 a.m. Sheree Hembree agreed to continue serving.
- Conditional admission for International graduate students was discussed, and has been discussed at Graduate Council. Graduate Coordinator's can now write a recommendation to conditionally accept international students, and then Graduate Council votes to accept/reject their recommendations on an individual student basis. Approximately 70 % of ELI undergraduate students do end up being admitted within the one year time limit. These are graduate students who meet all other conditions except the English language requirement. The decision to conditionally accept international students could possibly, in the future, be decided by individual departments/colleges.
- Decentralizing the Graduate admissions process to individual colleges is currently being discussed. In the future, Graduate Studies would possibly compile each student's file and then forward it onto the specific College. Nothing has been decided as of yet, however the discussion is taking place. Some Deans want greater control over which students are admitted. Some feel that College Deans should have the final say on which graduate students are admitted. Graduate Council's concern is that they want to be assured that common grounds be applied to all incoming graduate students.

**4. Old Business:**

- **Online Education:**
  - Chair Hamilton referred the committee to the USC Memorandum as a reference to discuss.
  - Miller feels that a one-page informational handout listing links and valuable information be generated to educate interested parties as to what has already been created in regards to online education.

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- Apparently some departments have come to the conclusion that with hybrid courses, students should physically attend class at least once a month rather than being totally online.
- Concerns were voiced that faculty development is necessary, and that faculty need to begin preparing now for these changes.
- Further discussion will take place at future meetings.
- **Faculty Consultation regarding the number of students admitted to graduate programs:**
  - This is coming because of a request from Sue Holl (Economics), who voiced concern at the Faculty Senate's meeting on August 22, 2012. Sue is requesting that the Senate develop a policy to ensure that faculty and graduate programs actually have input into the number of graduate student admitted into their programs.
  - Apparently the procedure is not consistent and qualified graduate students are being denied. Many qualified graduate students seem to be caught in the cross fire and unable to be admitted.
  - Dean Newsome will be sending a notice, including a template to determine how many students are continuing, leaving, what Department FTE allocation are, and how many slots do these factors all equate to and what the yield actually is. Then typically the Associate Deans figures out and consults with their Dept. Chairs and Graduate Coordinators, so that all parties are consulted with and an actual number is sent back to Graduate Studies as to the exact number to be admitted.
  - A lengthy discussion took place and concerns were expressed, especially with the IPP decisions.

8. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

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Bonnie Smith, Senate Support Staff