

**2015-16 FACULTY SENATE**  
**GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

**February 16, 2016**

*Approved March 1, 2016*

Members Present: Bogazianos, Heather, Hembree, Kaplan, La Rocco, Meidinger, Pinch, Vargas, Wassmer

Members Absent: Cowan, Hamilton, Newsome, Topping

**a. Call to order:** Called to order at approximately 8:34 a.m.

**b. Open Forum:** There were no items for Open Forum.

**c. Minutes of February 2, 2016:** Approved.

**d. Approval of Agenda:** Approved.

**e. Information Items**

a. Report from Chair

Heather updated the committee on two items GSPC recently forwarded:

- The Duplicate Degrees policy had its first reading at Senate on February 4<sup>th</sup> and is likely to receive its second reading in March. Heather shared feedback from Senators on the draft; GSPC members discussed the feedback, focusing in particular on the criteria for requests by program coordinators for application consideration when an application has been denied. Members decided not to revise this section, but did suggest one other minor revision.
- The Graduate Learning Goals policy will be on the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate Executive agenda.

Heather summarized a presentation on the background check policy that AVP Lovely had made to Senate Executive Committee on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Statewide Senate resolution calling for a delay in policy implementation had not been successful; AVP Lovely reported that background checks were going smoothly on our campus, with the vendor, Accurate Background, achieving a one-week turnaround. GSPC members asked who was responsible for paying fees associated with background checks.

Heather reported that graduate education is well-represented on the Provost Search Committee because of the inclusion of Dean Newsome and Christine Miller on the committee.

Heather reminded members to complete the committee preference poll, especially those members whose terms are ending this year (Hamilton, Kaplan, and Wassmer); he also asked members to consider standing as chair for 2016-17 when the committee's nominee is selected in March.

b. Report from Graduate Dean

No report.

c. Report from Statewide Senate

No report.

**f. Discussion Items**

a. Old Business: Summit on Graduate Education

Members discussed the second draft of the report on the summit's outcomes and suggested revisions. Heather will revise the document and forward it to the Senate and summit participants (final draft included as Appendix A below).

b. Old Business: Blended Programs Policy

Members discussed draft language for the blended programs policy and identified several concerns:

- the policy doesn't indicate that blended programs are an option, rather than a requirement.
- the requirement that students must apply to blended programs prior to obtaining 60 units, which is too early in their career for programs to make meaningful assessments of their potential for successful graduate work.
- the minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for admission to blended programs is too low.
- students may be admitted to graduate programs with less information or lower requirements than is currently required (e.g. no GRE/GMAT scores, no letters of recommendation).
- an additional evaluative step may be required prior to students in blended programs entering graduate status.
- the requirement that students who drop out of a blended program after completing the BA/BS aren't allowed to use blended units towards the MA degree even if admitted for a later term. Is this fair? How does this relate to existing policy allowing students to count up to 6 units of graduate courses taken as an undergraduate towards a graduate degree?
- at what point would graduate-level policies apply to students in blended programs?

c. New Business: Distinction between Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

There was no time for discussion.

d. Other Business

There was no other business.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:10 a.m.

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Julian Heather, Chair, GSPC

## Appendix A