ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

2011-2012

The Graduate Council shall serve the Graduate Dean in an advisory capacity on matters regarding the recommendation and implementation of principles, policies, and procedures affecting graduate and post-baccalaureate education at California State University, Sacramento. The Graduate Council shall also provide a forum for communication among coordinators of graduate and post-baccalaureate programs at departmental, college, or university-wide levels.

The Council provided advice on academic review, graduate student support & recognition, and administrative matters. The members reviewed materials and information and provided recommendations to the dean.

GRADUATE COUNCIL ACTIONS: 2011-2012

Long-term planning

1. The Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation standards revisions were discussed, as well as the Lumina Foundation report “A Stronger Nation Through Education “ (September 2010). The Graduate Council discussed ways to assist departments to strength the learning goals and outcomes for graduate programs on campus.

2. Using the Commission on the Future of Graduate Education report “The Path Forward: The future of Graduate Education in the United States (May 2010) and the campus initiative as starting points, the Graduate Council began discussions on the mission, goals and values of the Office of Graduate Studies.

One campus policy presented and discussed:

1. Sacramento State policy on “INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM PRIORITIES: ACADEMIC PLANNING, RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT”

Graduate Student Support and Recognition

Forwarded the following items to the Graduate Policies committee for consideration:

1. Academic Renewal for Graduate Students
2. Graduation with distinction at the Graduate level with university recognition
Administrative Matters

The Council made the following recommendations:

1. Unit loads for graduate students should remain at 9 units for the Spring 2012 term, and unit loads for credential students should remain at 15 units, unless otherwise approved to exceed these limits.

2. Unit loads for graduate students should be 9 units for the Fall 2012 term, and loads for credential students should be 15, unless otherwise approved to exceed these limits.

3. Departments should adopt a graduate admissions appeal process. Executive Order 1063 (http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1063.html) covers appeals based on discrimination. It is recommended that departments design a department policy and process to handle admission appeals based on content and/or procedural grounds.

4. Revision on the timeline and process for communication 2013-14AY graduate admissions. The goal is to release the communication memo to the graduate coordinators earlier (9/15) and set an end date for return of admission ranking criteria materials by December 2012.

The Council met 15 times during the 2011-2012 CY and dealt with: three (3) petitions for baccalaureate equivalency reviews; 20 leave of absence requests; 350 GWAR waivers; 75 special action admission requests; 15 foreign documentation reviews; five (5) requests to award master’s degrees with exceptions, and 130 petitions for currency.