



## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

### GRADUATE SCHOOL

### GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 17, 2008

Attending: Kurt Baker, Randall Brown, Bret Carroll, David Colnic, Chet Jensen, Ann Kohlhaas, Peter Nelligan, Pamela Roe, Margaret Tynan, Shawna Young

Excused: Diana Demetrulias, Dennis Sayers, Arnold Schmidt, Ramon Vega de Jesus, Andrew Wagner, Kimberly Warmasley

Margaret Tynan called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

- I. **Approval of Agenda.** A motion was made by Kurt Baker to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Chet Jensen. The motion carried.
- II. **Approval of March 20, 2008 Minutes.** A motion was made by Peter Nelligan to approve the March 20, 2008 minutes. The motion was seconded by Shawna Young. The motion carried.

#### III. Information

- A. **MA/MS in Interdisciplinary Studies Annual Report (Graduate School) –Attachment #0708-19.** The Council reviewed the Attachment #0708-19, which provided the Interdisciplinary Studies program graduation rate from 2000-2005. After review of the document, the Council requested that the data be reformatted to provide the information in a more clear and concise manner. The Graduate School will rework this document and report back to the Council at the May meeting.
- B. **WASC Campus Visit for Capacity and Preparatory Review- October 1-3, 2008 (Demetrulias).** Council members were encouraged to mark their calendars for the upcoming WASC Campus Visit for the Capacity and Preparatory Review on October 1-3, 2008.

#### IV. Action

#### V. Discussion

- A. **Approved Undergraduate Course List (Tynan) –Attachment #0708-17 (previously distributed).** During the March Graduate Council meeting the most recent list of approved courses applicable to graduate programs was reviewed. Noting that a few 3000 level courses were listed, program coordinators were encouraged to check with their respective departments to discuss the rationale for 3000 level courses. Each applicable program coordinator shared the department rationale for use of the courses. The Council expressed concern that many 3000 and 4000 level courses are interchangeable and not distinguishable. The Council will continue discussion at the May meeting. The Graduate School will also continue working in conjunction with the Vice Provost to develop a process for future review of course lists as was done previously by Graduate Council.
- B. **Graduate Education and the Role of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity in the CSU (Demetrulias) –Attachment #0708-13 (previously distributed).** The Graduate Education and the Role of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity in the CSU document were reviewed. Questions arose

regarding who keeps track of the differential funding, and how are those funds accessed. Discussion will continue at the May meeting.

- C. **Graduate Curriculum Policies and Procedures (Demetrulias) –Attachment #0708-3 revised (previously distributed).** A revised copy of the Graduate Curriculum Policies and Procedures document. It was last modified to include Extended Education language, and the title of the document has been changed. It was identified that the Extended Education language included a reference to the “Dean of the Graduate School.” Further discussion took place to identify who the authorizing party should be. It was suggested that authorization be granted to the Associate Director of the Graduate School. The document will be modified to exclude this reference to the graduate dean and clarify approval procedures. A motion was made by Chet Jensen, and seconded by David Colnic. The motion passed.
- D. **CGS/Peterson’s Award for Innovation in Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community –Attachment #0708-23.** The Council was provided information on the CGS/Peterson’s Award for Innovation in Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community. The purpose of this award is to provide support in the form of a matching grant to one institution per academic year in order to effect institutional changes to enhance diversity and inclusiveness in graduate education. This is an opportunity for an individual program, or the Graduate Council collectively to come up with an idea to promote diversity in the Graduate School. After the review of sample abstracts, the Council decided not to pursue the award. However, the Council would like to review winning proposals for ideas and future implementation in Graduate Education. It was suggested that the Council review graduate demographics in September 2008 to identify areas of concern.
- E. **Graduate National Survey of Student Engagement 2007 (Demetrulias)– Attachment #0708-21.** The Council reviewed the Graduate National Survey of Student Engagement 2007. The Council expressed concern about the low number of participants. It was recommended that surveyors acquire a more reliable way to gain a larger return, offering more meaningful results.
- F. **Graduate Faculty Survey of Student Engagement 2007 (Demetrulias) –Attachment #0708-20.** The Council reviewed the Graduate Faculty Survey of Student Engagement 2007. The Council expressed concern about the low number of participants. It was recommended that surveyors acquire a more reliable way to gain a larger return, offering more meaningful results.
- G. **WASC Standards-Graduate Academic Culture (Demetrulias) –Attachment #0708-22.** The Council reviewed the WASC Standards-Graduate Academic Culture draft. The following are questions related to a graduate-level academic culture and the response given by the Council.

- i. **What is our definition of a graduate-level academic culture?**

- Graduate-level academic culture is defined by the Graduate School Mission Statement and Student Learning Goals. “The Graduate School is committed to the development of scholarly leaders through outstanding graduate and post-baccalaureate programs that require students to demonstrate critical thinking and analysis, the ability to integrate theory and practice, and creativity in scholarly endeavors. Students emerge equipped to face real-life challenges and contribute to the body of knowledge in their fields of study. The Graduate School develops plans, assesses, improves, and administers the policies and procedures established by the Graduate Council, the chief governance body for graduate and post-baccalaureate programs.”

- “To ensure the quality of the advanced programs and student learning experiences, the Graduate Council established six student learning goals for graduate/post-baccalaureate students. Students will be expected to demonstrate:

- 1. Advanced knowledge, skills, and values appropriate to their discipline.
      2. Ability to be creative, analytical, and critical thinkers.
      3. Ability to work as individual researchers/scholars as well as in collaboration with others in contributing to the scholarship of their disciplines, as appropriate.
      4. Relevant knowledge of the global perspectives appropriate to their discipline.
      5. Knowledge of new and various methods and technologies as appropriate to their discipline.

6. Advanced oral and written communication skills, complemented as appropriate to the discipline, by the ability to access and analyze information from a myriad of primary, print, and technological sources.

ii. **What are examples of the ways in which graduate program faculty currently promote and sustain a graduate-level academic culture?**

The graduate program faculty promotes and sustains a graduate-level academic culture through engagement, and co-creation of knowledge with students, mentoring, establishing student learning goals, and advocating for graduate education through the Graduate Council. It has been suggested that each program is contacted as well to gauge what events/activities are taking place.

iii. **What institutional structures do we have for supporting a graduate-level academic culture?**

Institutional structures that have been put in place to support a graduate-level academic culture are library resources, subscriptions to research databases, graduate student research funds, graduate student orientations, department graduation ceremonies, access to the Graduate School conference room, as well as the increase in financial support systems. It has been suggested that each program is contacted as well to gauge what events/activities are taking place.

iv. **What methods do we use to evaluate/assess a graduate-level academic culture?**

Assessment of student engagement is designed to assess the level of academic culture.

v. **What are additional ideas for enhancing a graduate-level academic culture at the program and/or institutional levels?**

An increase in fully funded waivers would allow the tie for students to engage more in the academic culture.

vi. **Other questions**

How much of the responsibility is descended to a particular program or the Graduate School as a whole? What barriers do we put up that prevent a graduate-level academic culture?

H. 7005 Reimbursement (Borba) –Deferred to May Meeting.

I. 7005 Retro Waiver (Borba) –Deferred to May Meeting.

**VI. Reports**

A. **Academic Senate Report (Lindsay/Tynan).**

B. **Associated Students Report (TBA).**

C. **Faculty Budget Advisory Committee Report—FBAC (Young).**

D. **Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Policy Committee (Vega de Jesus).**

E. **Vice Provost (Demetrulias).**

**VII. Announcements**

A. A discussion occurred surrounding the concern that a moratorium may possibly be placed on smaller graduate programs, and graduate classes with fewer than twelve students may be canceled, due to budget constraints. It was suggested that the Council put forth a resolutions to the Academic Senate requesting that Graduate programs are maintained and supported during the budget crisis. Shawna Young and Margaret Tynan will draft a resolution and forward it to the Council for review.

B. The MBA program requested to add to May's agenda a proposal for a summer 2008 course. The Council agreed to review.

Margaret Tynan adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Raichelle Owens.