California State University, Stanislaus
Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2013

Present: J. Borba (proxy for M. Mayer), D. Colnic, M. Cover, R. Esau (recording), M. Grobner, K. McKenzie, T. Perrello, R. Ringstad, K. Royer, H. Stanislaw (proxy for K. Baker), J. Tuedio, S. Wood (proxy for G. Morris), S. Young

Excused: K. Baker, R. Brown, R. Harris, M. Mayer, G. Morris, H. Ramirez,

Guest: J. Helzer

I. Call to Order. T. Perrello called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda. The agenda was approved as distributed.

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of December 20, 2012, were approved as distributed.

IV. Information and Announcements

A. CEGE Quarterly Report: October – December 2012. S. Young reported that the Center for Excellence in Graduate Education (CEGE) has reached the mid-point of the grant. The Title 5 grant funds were intended as seed money to begin programs which enhance graduate education at CSU Stanislaus. As the Strategic Plan and Priorities for Graduate Education are being developed, CEGE will share the data results from its various programs and begin to advocate for institutionalizing the portions of the program that have proven effective.

B. CEGE Awards Procedures. The Graduate Council is the Advisory Board for CEGE. At this time, there is need for some direction regarding four issues. Graduate Assistantships are a big part of what CEGE offers to students. It's very competitive. There are twice as many applicants as there are awards available. The first issue is how CEGE is to ensure that the target population for the grant is reached. CSU Stanislaus received the Title 5 grant because the University is a Hispanic-Serving Institution. How does CEGE ensure that the target population is reached, that the funding that is intended to touch that population is successful? The applications received from the previous semester had the lowest representation of Hispanic students. It has become an outreach issue. Professors who drive this grant need to keep this in mind. All of the CEGE programs are geared toward students who are already in graduate programs, but part of the grant was to increase graduate students in this area of low income, underserved, Hispanic population. A future agenda item will be to discuss the University's efforts of recruiting graduate students from its own undergraduate programs. The second issue is how repeat applicants should be handled. There are students who have been awarded Graduate Assistantships 2 or 3 times over the course of their master's program. The funding of Graduate Assistantships needs to be spread as broadly as possible. It was suggested that preference be given to first-time applicants. Following discussion, priority will be given to the applicants who have not previously received an award. It will be left to the faculty panel reviewing the applications to determine the application process

V. Old Business

A. Strategic Plan and Priorities for Graduate Education. The committee shared a working document "Graduate Education Strategic Planning Indicators of Program Health." Indicators for Viability, Excellence, Contribution, and Opportunity were presented. The committee is seeking help in filling out additional indicators of program health. This is an exercise in trying to identify and understand graduate education. As the indicators are added, the committee will begin to see the whole of graduate education at CSU Stanislaus and the priorities (i.e., strategic plans) will emerge. Discussion will continue at the next scheduled Graduate Council meeting.

B. Institutional Plan for Graduate Assessment. Deferred.

C. Academic Program Review: Master of Science in Nursing (Substitution of the Specialized Accreditation Self Study for the Academic Program Review Self Study). Deferred.

D. Continuous Enrollment Policy. Deferred.

VI. New Business.

A. New Concentration: Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, Concentration in Geospatial Analysis of Human-Environmental Change. J. Helzer joined the Graduate Council to present the proposed new concentration for the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, Concentration in Geospatial Analysis of Human-Environmental Change. In Geography, the integration of geospatial technologies (Geographic Information Systems, Geographic Information Science, Remote Sensing, Internet Mapping, Cartography, GPS, and working with spatial databases) has been underway at four-year universities for at least two decades. A greater emphasis in geospatial technology, particularly GIS and remote sensing, has helped provide both human and physical geographers with important technical and analytical skills. This has made recent graduates very marketable. There is demand for this technical training and knowledge in the market and in the region. There isn't a plan at this time to create a Geography master program. Instead, to meet the demand, the new concentration within the M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies program is being proposed. The student will need to add nine additional units of coursework as part of a secondary discipline to meet the requirements of the IS program. A question was raised concerning the Graduate Development section of the concentration, specific to the student possibly choosing to complete four units of Individual Study as part of the program. J. Helzer responded that students will be advised to take no more than two units of Individual Study. The council members would like to see the courses available in the Landscape Analysis section that aren't chosen by the student be made available as electives in the Graduate Development section. Following discussion, it was moved by D. Colnic, seconded by S. Young, and voted unanimously to move to a second reading. With the suggested addition of electives to the Graduate Development section, it was moved by D. Colnic, seconded by K. Royer, and voted unanimously to approve the new concentration Geospatial Analysis of Human-Environmental Change for the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies effective fall 2013.

B. Academic Program Review: Master of Science in Genetic Counseling (Substitution of the Specialized Accreditation Self Study for the Academic Program Review Self Study). Deferred.

VII. **Other (information only).** The next Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Lakeside Conference Room.

VIII. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Randi Esau, Recording Secretary

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