To: Senate

From: The Graduate Council

Date: September 14, 2011

Re: Graduate Council May 2011 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Edward Aguado, Leland Beck, Andrew Do, Martha Doran, Sharan Gibson, Ramona Perez, Radmila Prislin, Lucinda Rasmussen, Caren Sax, Tom Scott, and Anne Turhollow.

Members Absent: Jose Castillo, Gibran Guido, Steve Kramer, Nancy Marlin, Dana Nurge, Eugene Olevsky, Valerie Renegar, Aladdin Shadyab, and Janusz Supernak.

Ex Officio Members Present: Rita Baumann, Camille Nebeker, Janet Rodgers, Cristina Sanchez, and Sandra Temorez-Valdez.


Minutes: The minutes for April 7th, 2011, Graduate Council meeting were approved.

Report of the Dean
Chair Dr. Scott began the meeting by thanking three members for their service on the council, two whose terms have come to an end this semester and one who will be unable to continue in the fall: Martha Doran, Lucinda Rasmussen, and Janusz Supernak.

NRTW update – GRA was given 201 NRTWs to be distributed for 2010-11. Of those, approximately 130 (65%) were distributed in round one - leaving around 70. Since some students will graduate after the fall semester, leaving waivers unused, Academic Affairs gave approval to take 10 waivers from the spring allotment and award them in the fall (reducing the count in spring to 191). Therefore, GRA was able to allocate around 80 waivers in round two. Most needs were satisfied between the two distributions.
The DNP and DPT programs were approved by the Senate and will be going to the Chancellor’s office in September.
The National Research Council sent out a revision of their ratings of Research Doctoral Programs. One of the revisions was for SDSU’s Clinical Psychology program. Out of the two ratings, Clinical Psychology is now tied with Yale for 5th in the reputational ranking, and was moved from 7/286 to 3/286 for the scholarship/numbers based ranking. Some other programs’ rankings may also have been adjusted.
SDSU has a new president, Dr. Elliot Hirshman. He has strengths in research and has contacted Dr. Scott asking to meet with him when he arrives. He will take on his new role on July 5th, the 15th anniversary of Dr. Weber’s appointment.
The NCURA review of the research processes has concluded and, according to their verbal report, they have found some areas warranting attention. Although most research universities began on a research platform, SDSU began as a teaching school. Therefore, as
issues arose they were addressed with a patchwork of solutions. Hopefully, addressing the issues raised by the review will help Research to be less susceptible to future problems. Only the verbal report has been provided at present - the written report is expected shortly.

Committee Reports
Graduate Curriculum Committee
None.

Graduate Policy Committee
Dr. Prislin thanked the Policy Committee members for their service over the semester and full attendance at the last meeting. Martha Doran also took a moment to thank Dr. Scott for his service to the Graduate Council over the years and presented him a thank-you card from the Council members.

TA/GA Contracts: Dr. Prislin reminded the group that GRA processes TA/GA contracts and are working to make the process as easy as possible, within the labor union rules. She put forward a proposal to adjust the semester limits for TA/GA contracts slightly. Currently the term limits for a program to appoint a student are:

30-36 unit programs - 4 semesters
36+ unit programs - 5 semesters

The new proposal expands this slightly to:

30-39 unit programs – 4 semesters
40-49 unit programs – 5 semesters
50-60 unit programs – 6 semesters

Additional discussion surrounded the TA/GA guidelines handout. Number five on the handout reads:

An official Program of Study (POS) should be filed with Graduate Affairs by the graduate adviser by the end of the second semester of a 30-36 unit program, or by the end of the fourth semester if in a 48-60 unit program.

It was commented upon that since some courses are only offered once a year, filing a POS that early could require Graduate Advisors to submit several petitions to make adjustments. Adoption of the updated guidelines was put on hold until members were able to further review the guidelines.

Dr. Prislin brought out that the Instructional Student Assistants (ISAs) currently have no contract criteria. The group acknowledged knowing very little about ISAs and the discussion was tabled until the September meeting.

GRE Scores: Dr. Scott reminded the group of the recent presentation on the new GRE test and scoring system. The new scoring range has been adjusted to a standard of 130-170, numbers which were chosen arbitrarily. Since each department has its own minimum GRE score, it makes sense to use the percentile score moving forward rather than the raw score. The question was raised whether the percentile is based on the group that took the exam on that day and, if so, do the percentiles jump around substantially. Dr. Scott asked the Policy Committee to research and to make a recommendation to the Council. Dr. Prislin also provided a website whereby members of the Graduate Council could educate
themselves further on the new scoring system: www.ets.org/gre/information. Dr. Perez asked what other universities will be doing but that was unknown at this time – she agreed to put the question to other societies.

**Graduate Student Affairs Committee Report**
None

**Old Business**

**Academic Review Streamlining** – Dr. Scott reminded the group that they have been asked to continue with the Academic Reviews by the Deans’ Council since the Deans felt it was important to continue to plan even in times of economic distress.

Associate Deans of Undergraduate Studies, Dean Frost, and Graduate Affairs, Dr. Prislin, have been charged with streamlining the existing academic review processes. They have suggested combining the existing Annual Assessment Reports (AAR) and the the Annual Academic Plans (AAP) together via an online system whereby a department would add information on each report as the academic year progresses. Then, when it comes time for the Academic Review, the department could generate the Self-Study report from these existing data. The goal is to make the process flexible, efficient, and automated. Dean Frost is currently looking into a software package which would meet these needs. Dr. Prislin reminded the group that programs undergoing accreditation have the option of using it as a substitute for a review.

Dr. Perez brought out that she took the AR handout which details this proposal to a meeting of Directors recently and some attendees mentioned that since several departments do not file assessment plans or annual reports this process could potentially increase the workload for some.

**Responsible Conduct of Research:** Camille Nebeker has been working on a plan to decentralize the RCR education so it is carried out by several stakeholder groups on campus. The plan would be to target new programs as they are being built. She requested that the Policy Committee discuss moving forward with the plan. Dr. Doran suggested that the Curriculum Committee also discuss how to get information into the curriculum guide. Dr. Prislin agreed that the Policy Committee would discuss the plan.

**New Business**

**JDP Geography Academic Review**
The Geography JPD is scheduled to undergo its first academic review in 15 years. The University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) has in place an elaborate process and requires the approval of an ad-hoc committee – two members from SDSU and two from UCSB. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the nomination of Richard Gersberg and Rebecca Lewison to serve on the ad-hoc committee.

**Adjournment 3:45pm**