To: The Senate

From: The Graduate Council

Date: 10/8/2012

Re: Graduate Council Minutes – September 2012

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Ex-Officio Members Present: Rita Baumann, Sabrina Cortell, Margarita Piña-Harlow, and Cristina Sanchez.

Visitors: Deyanira Preciado-Bayardo.

1. Minutes: The minutes for the May, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Report of the Dean – Dr. Welter

After welcoming the Council to the first meeting of the Fall semester, Dr. Welter opened discussion by stating that he would like change the direction of the Graduate Council so that it can focus on more than just the committee reports and other paperwork. While these things are necessary, he would like the Council broaden the scope of its activities. This academic year, Dr. Welter is on four committees for the strategic planning and would like Council’s input on strategic issues, with hopes that ideas from the Council can percolate up to make a difference on campus. Since not all Council members participate in Senate equally, this would be an excellent opportunity to move faculty ideas forward. Dr. Perez agreed, adding that the university has to begin to rethink certain things and the Council is an excellent place to generate ideas. Dr. Venkataraman voiced concern that sometimes committees plan forward, but don’t always look back to ensure previous plans have been completed. Dr. Perez added that perhaps one thing to consider is what the specific goals of the graduate programs are as a whole - for example, should campus pursue more doctoral programs, or should resources instead be focused on the masters programs that already exist? Dr. Fleming added that the Council is an excellent place for discussions like these since this forum focuses specifically on graduate programs, as opposed to the Senate. Dr. Welter continued that he hopes this expanded scope of the Council would be perceived as an opportunity, something valuable. He would like to use an evidence based approach, and tackle such things as identifying barriers regarding admissions, helping with recruitment, and helping departments achieve their own goals. Dr. Perez added that in the past when the Council has decided to speak with one voice, it has made great differences. Dr. Welter finished by saying that he will call for topics for discussion.

Dr. Prislin presented a PowerPoint presentation comparing graduate applications, admissions, and enrollment from Fall 2009 through Fall 2012. Data demonstrate that yield
rates in 2012 are better than last year, and SDSU is heading in the right direction. She added that some programs are clearly doing much better than others when it comes to yield and selection rates, and there can be a lot to learn from these programs. A few of these programs will be participating in the Graduate Recruitment Workshops to be held at the end of September and the beginning of October. Moving forward, Dr. Prislin presented information comparing resident and non-resident students and their applications, admissions, and intents to enroll by college from 2012. Dr. Welter added that yield rates are higher this year and many programs ended up with a greater number of resident students than they expected. However, since undergraduates were under their allocation, the numbers balanced out and the graduate goal was met.

3. **Committee Reports**

   - **Curriculum Committee – Ramona Perez**
     - Information 11-09-12 & 11-09-12.500
   - **Policy Committee Report - None**
   - **Student Affairs Reports - None**

4. **New Business**

   - **Graduate Council Committee Selection – Dr. Welter**
     Discussion ensued to populate the subcommittees that belong to the Graduate Council. There are three committees, as follows: 1) The Policy Committee, which researches and prepares materials regarding policy, bringing suggestions to the Graduate Council, 2) The Curriculum Committee, which reviews curriculum proposals, confirming they meet CSU standards. This committee should be made up of at least one representative from each college, and 3) The Student Affairs Committee, which does not have an official charge. It was suggested that the undergraduate Student Affairs Committee be examined and perhaps their charge could be used also for the graduate committee.

   - **Deadlines – Dr. Welter**
     Dr. Welter presented the application deadlines for the upcoming academic year. They are broken into three deadlines: priority, regular, and international. Even though the deadlines are in place, if a program has a specific student who is of excellent academic promise, Enrollment Services will have the ability to open up admissions to allow the student to be admitted after the deadlines. This will avoid a program being penalized by having an earlier deadline by allowing for stellar students to still enter a program. Dr. Prislin added that these stellar students who may be admitted after the deadline should have all documents ready to submit, including GRE scores. Margarita Piña-Harlow added that as a new applicant file is completed, Enrollment Services sends out the RDR and the department can send it straight back if they would like – they do not have to wait until the RDR deadline to do so. Dr. Welter closed conversation by adding that as it stands currently, there will be no spring admissions.

Adjournment 4:00pm