Central Connecticut State University
UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION

Senate Motion Number FS 20.21.012B

TO: President Zulma Toro

FROM: President of the University Senate

1. The attached motion of the University Senate, dealing with: **Graduate Studies Committee Report, December 2020**, is presented to you for your consideration.

2. This motion was adopted by the University Senate on **12/07/2020**.

3. After considering this motion, please indicate your action on this form, and return it together with the original copy to the President of the University Senate.

4. Under the By-Laws of the University Senate, Section 3.7, the following schedule of action is to be observed.

    a) By **02/22/2021**, Senate action reported to the President of the University. (Within five school days of the session in which they are adopted).

    b) By **03/08/2021**, the President of the University to return the motion to the President of the Senate. (Within ten school days of its receipt).

02/22/2021
Date

Frederic Latour
Frederic Latour, President, University Senate

ENDORSEMENT:

TO: President of the University Senate

FROM: President Zulma Toro

1. Motion Approved :_____✓_____

2. Motion Disapproved:_____(Explanatory statement must be appended).

3. Action "is deferred":_____

4. Resolution Noted:_____

5. Other:_____

_5/3/21_
Date

President Zulma Toro

Graduate Studies Committee Report to Faculty Senate, Fall 2021

I. General Activity

1. The GSC congratulates Christina Robinson on her appointment to Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, Research and Faculty Development.
2. In the light of low participation and inconsistency in the former Graduate Student Association, the School of Graduate Studies has created a new Graduate Student Assembly; every graduate program is eligible to send a representative. The new Assembly will assume the duties of the GSA, and begin meetings in fall.
3. The GSC is dismayed by proposed budget cuts to graduate student assistantships; the Committee urgently asks the Administration to resist these cuts and seek alternative means to support Central's graduate students, many of whom will not be able to continue attending without the support of their GA positions.
4. GSC has created a workgroup to examine barriers to graduate student equity and inclusion; the group will begin by soliciting feedback from alumni regarding their experience at Central.
5. GSC continues to work with Pat Gardner, Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions, to streamline the application process and admissions decision-making.
6. The GSC will survey current graduate students to assess opportunities to increase innovation, flexibility and availability in program design and delivery.

II. Proposals for Changes in General Policies in the School of Graduate Studies

Working with the AVP, the Committee recommends implementation of a policy to permit graduate students to use specific and defined prior work and educational experience toward course credit.

Important considerations for the proposed Portfolio Evaluation Program (PEP)
- Individual graduate programs must opt-in to the evaluation program.
- Individual programs will establish a process to assess student applications, and faculty will be compensated for the additional work through the PEP.
- Credit earned through PEP is capped at 6, and will contribute toward the maximum number of external credits transferred into a graduate program.
- Applicants must align their non-traditional experience with the description and outcomes of a particular course, which will appear on the transcript.

For a comparison with policies at other CSCU institutions, see Appendix.

[Approved Unanimously by GSC, October 20, 2020]

Portfolio Evaluation Program (PEP):
Put some PEP in your step and receive credit for life's lessons

Recognizing that learning is a life-long process that takes place in varied settings and at different times in a student's life, the School of Graduate Studies proudly announces the *Portfolio Evaluation Program (PEP)*. This program provides students the opportunity to earn credit(s) for learning that has taken place outside of a traditional classroom. In participating programs, Graduate students can earn up to 6.0 credits for their non-

traditional learning experiences. Credits awarded through PEP will count toward the maximum number of credits that may be transferred into a graduate program at CCSU.

Examples of suitable experiences include (but are not limited to): significant non-credit learning through training and professional development workshops, related work experiences, credentials earned via continuing education coursework, etc. To receive course credit(s) students must submit a portfolio to the appropriate academic department for evaluation, review, and potential approval of a course substitution.

Eligibility:
All CCSU students are eligible to apply for credit via the *PEP*. To receive credit for prior learning and experience a student must follow the procedural steps below:

- Complete the *Portfolio Evaluation Program (PEP)* application form, indicating:
    o The course(s) for which they wish to receive credit.
    o A brief (1-2 paragraph) explanation of the experience for which they wish to receive credit.
    o Their acknowledgement of the non-refundable portfolio evaluation review fee (currently $150) that must be paid prior to the review of their portfolio.
        ▪ The current proposal is that the fee shall be divided as follows: 25% to Academic Affairs, 25% to the University, and 50% to the evaluating department.
    o Their acknowledgement of the portfolio evaluation credit fee, currently $250 per credit, that must be paid prior to the receipt of credit on their transcript should their portfolio be accepted by the appropriate programmatic signatory.
        ▪ The current proposal is that the fee shall be divided as follows: 25% to Academic Affairs, 25% to the University, and 50% to the evaluating department.
- Submit a portfolio that conforms to the program-specific guidelines available via: *[link to Department specific standards here]*
- If approved by the programmatic signatory, pay appropriate fees to the Bursar's Office and receive course credit!

Sample Portfolio Contents
1. Portfolio Cover Sheet
2. Introduction describing how your experience has provided you with the opportunities to learn the course material.
3. Narrative demonstrating how your knowledge is equivalent to each course topic / learning outcome and linking each piece of documentary evidence.
4. Evidence supporting your claim of having achieved mastery of course content.
5. Resume.

III. Proposals for Changes in Individual Graduate Programs

Item A: Proposed Revision of the Admission Policy for the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) Program
  http://ccsu.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/Undergraduate-Graduate-Catalog/Doctoral-Programs/Doctorate-of-Nurse-Anesthesia-Practice-DNAPconditions.

  Approved unanimously at GSC, October 20, 2020.

The Biology Department proposes several changes to the admission requirements for one specialization in the DNAP Program. In summary, these changes will:

- Eliminate Microbiology pre-req requirement.
- Add new pre-req requirements of Statistics or Biostatistics course and a Pharmacology course
- Maintain minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, but add grades of B or higher in all required prerequisite courses.
- Add statement that "The Graduate Recruitment and Admissions office will maintain the right to request other official transcripts to confirm minimum grade requirements for prerequisite courses"
- Change requirement that "one course in chemistry and one course in anatomy and physiology must be less than 10 years old" to 8 years instead of 10.
- Increase critical care experience from one year to 18 months which should be accumulated by the application deadline (September 1st).

Admission requirements to DNAP: Entry-level Specialization Program (Revised)

All Applicants must demonstrate: All Applicants must demonstrate:

1. Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and satisfy both the University's and the affiliated hospital school of nurse anesthesia's criteria for acceptance. The BSN from an NLN or AACN accredited baccalaureate program in nursing or another appropriate baccalaureate degree (biology, chemistry, etc.) from a regionally accredited institution of higher education must be completed at the time of application.
2. Cumulative GPA 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale (A is 4.00) **and grades of B or higher in all required prerequisite courses. The Graduate Recruitment and Admissions office will maintain the right to request other official transcripts to confirm minimum grade requirements for prerequisite courses.**
3. ~~Completed a year in chemistry~~ **Required Prerequisite courses include 2 courses in chemistry** (this must include inorganic and organic chemistry or biochemistry), a year in anatomy and physiology, **one course in Statistics or Biostatistics course, and one course in Pharmacology course.** ~~and one course in microbiology~~ . Please note one course in chemistry and one course in anatomy and physiology must be less than **8** ~~10~~ years old.
4. Current unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse in one of the 50 states and a current certification in basic life support (BLS).
5. ~~A minimum of one year of critical care experience at the time of application~~ **A minimum of 18 months of critical care experience should be accumulated by the application deadline (September 1st)** in which the applicant has had the opportunity to develop independent decision making, demonstrate psychomotor skills and the ability to use and interpret advanced monitoring, based on a knowledge of physiologic and pharmacologic principles as evidence by a letter from a supervisor.
6. A satisfactory interview with the admissions committee from an affiliated hospital school of nurse anesthesia, if selected as finalist.

Item B: Proposed Revision of the Admission Policy for the MS in Teacher Leadership Program
https://ccsu.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Graduate-Catalog/Masters-Degree-Programs/Teacher-Leadership-MS

(but see also https://www.ccsu.edu/elpit/teacherLeadershipMS/admissions.html)

Approved unanimously at GSC, November 19, 2020.

The Program currently accepts applications for the Fall and Spring semesters, but wants to add a Summer matriculation option. The director wrote, "The rationale for this change is to allow for

students to have a summer-to-summer pathway for this master's degree. This is a popular idea with the educators we market the program to."

The new sentence to be added is shown in red, bold, underline below

Teacher Leadership M.S.

<u>Program Rationale:</u>

...

<u>Program Learning Outcomes:</u>

...

<u>Admissions Requirements:</u>

To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale (where A is 4.00), or a 2.70 GPA, or its equivalent, and good standing (3.00 GPA) in all post-baccalaureate course work. Applicants to the Teacher Leadership and Secondary Education strands must hold, or be eligible for, a valid teaching certificate.

<u>Applications are accepted for Fall, Spring and Summer terms.</u> The graduate application, application fee, and official transcripts are to be submitted to the Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Office.

Contact: 860-832-2130

Appendix: Non-Traditional Learning in CSCU Graduate Schools

Policies at CSCU Institutions	
Eastern	Reverse internship for 9 credits. Adults with 5 years of work experience. Students participate in two workshops and write an 8-10 page paper. Total Cost $1,250 with two in-person workshops.
Southern	Contracts out to Charter Oak to review. Students submit their portfolio to Charter Oak (takes 2-4 months for review) and pay $450 (for evaluation of a course) or $500 (for evaluation of a professional credential) plus $475 for 1 copy of their official transcript displaying the evaluated credit. Total cost $925 – 975.
Western	Contracts out to Charter Oak to review. Students submit their portfolio to Charter Oak (takes 2-4 months for review) and pay $450 (for evaluation of a course) or $500 (for evaluation of a professional credential) plus $475 for 1 copy of their official transcript displaying the evaluated credit. Total cost $925 – 975.