

Hisham Hussain
Director of Graduate Studies

To: ASI Board of Directors

From: Hisham Hussain
Director of Graduate Studies

Subject: March Board Report

General Information:

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Contact Information:

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Message to the Hornet Family

My friends,

Its Graduate Student and Professionals Appreciation Week!

Here is the list of events planned for you:

Tuesday April 8th, GRAD SLAM, (I hope you signed for it, if you did not please join as it is a great learning opportunity)

Wednesday April 9th, Meet& Greet Tabling

Thursday April 10th, Grad Research Showcase, (Join this event to learn about interesting research and entrepreneurship ideas)

Friday April 11th, Open House (Drop by OGS to socialize and make friends!)

Committee Updates:

- Graduate Studies Policies Committee (Discussing Paired Course policy)
- Grade Appeal Panel (Discussed Appeals)
- Student Academic Senate (There were concerns about suspended graduate programs and transparency)
- Grade Appeal Procedural Panel (did not meet)

Strategic Priority Updates

I have been assigned with the following strategic priorities:

- 1.4.1 Meet with IPGE for Orientation(Not on this priority, but working with OGS to develop a training for incoming international students)
- 2.1 Engage in the ongoing Development of new Basic Needs Center (Discussed a few ideas)
 - 2.1.1 Meet with Planning Committee to provide feedback.
 - 2.1.2 Attend the Grand Opening
- 2.2 Support SHAC/The WELL Wellness' Program (had a meeting, worked on a basic plan for event)
 - 2.2.1 Collaborate on at least one Wellness Initiative. (Made some goodie bags)
- 3.3.1 Opportunities for experiential learning (Gathered info and sent VPUA and VPAA)

Events/Committees/Meetings Calendar:

03/04/2025	MSA Iftar
03/11/2025	Class Presentation ARB 1
03/12/2025	MSA Iftar
03/13/2025	Class Presentation ARB 2
03/14/2025	Student Academic Senate
03/18/2025	GSPC Meeting
03/21/2025	Grade Appeal Meeting
03/26/2025	Meeting with OGS Director
03/28/2025	Student Academic Senate Meeting

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by
email at asigraddirector@csus.edu.*

Information about suspended programs:

I wanted to address some concerns raised by graduate students regarding the suspension of programs. Specifically, there have been questions about the lack of advance notice prior to these suspensions. I would like to provide some clarification on the process: departments make decisions about suspending programs based on several factors, such as enrollment, class availability, student interest, and funding. While departments have their own budget and resources analysts, the decision to suspend a program is made internally, and it does not involve seeking permission from the ASI Graduate Representative.

When I inquired with the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) about the suspension of specific programs, I learned that they do not have a comprehensive list of suspended programs. Additionally, it appears that the suspension of a program could vary in duration—whether for a semester, a year, or indefinitely—and departments may not have a clear estimate as to when the program may be reinstated. It seems that OGS may not always be informed of specific details regarding program suspensions, class availability, course load limits, or graduation requirements, as departments have some flexibility in determining their own policies in these areas.

My primary liaison is with the OGS, and I rely on them to relay information regarding any program changes, which I can then pass along to the graduate student body. I have made every effort to stay informed and conducting my own research, including reviewing the graduate admissions site and speaking to students to track any program suspensions.

Based on my findings, the following graduate programs are currently suspended:

- MS in Software Engineering
- Criminal Justice
- Executive MBA
- Doctorate in Education

Please rest assured that I am actively addressing any issues I come across with OGS and other relevant bodies, such as the Graduate Student Policies Committee. I would also like to note that, in my role as the graduate representative, I have faced personal and professional challenges such as retaliation when advocating for graduate students, which has been quite distressing. However, I remain committed to my responsibility of supporting and representing the graduate student community. While the direct impact of my efforts may not always be immediately visible to all, I encourage anyone with concerns to reach out to OGS for confirmation of the advocacy I am undertaking on behalf of graduate students.