MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Fresno, California 93740-8027

Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

January 29, 2019

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall (ex officio), K. Capehart, P. Mahalik,   
N. Wang, S. Church, S. Tracz

Members Excused: T. Lopez, D. Walker

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by M. Wilson

1. Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2019, meeting

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Communications and Announcements

Dean Marshall announced that the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Fresno State—which had been a pilot program for the past 5 years, as well as a joint program with San Jose State University (SJSU)—has been approved by the Chancellor’s Office to be permanent and independent of SJSU. (SJSU desired its own independent program.) The first cohort under our new independent program will be in Fall 2019.

Dean Marshall also announced that the Department of Engineering’s proposed Masters in Construction Management been presented to the Dean of the Lyles College of Engineering.

Finally, Dean Marshall shared statistics on the number of students applying to, enrolling in, and graduating from graduate programs here at Fresno State, as well as statistics on the demographics of those students. The committee expressed broad agreement that the numbers were encouraging. S. Tracz asked how graduate certificate programs were doing, in particular; those statistics would need to be calculated, Dean Marshall said. M. Wilson wondered how many graduate programs at Fresno State wish to grow and how many are content with their current size.

Also, following up on a point of discussion from our last meeting, S. Church confirmed that the university’s approval process for teaching online or blended courses is the same for both graduate and undergraduate programs. Those policies were detailed by Vice Provost Dennis Nef in an announcement to all faculty.

4. MSW Program Review Discussion

In preparing for the meeting with the team for the Masters in Social Work (MSW) program review, the following points were raised by committee members.

Several committee members noted that the number of documents and size of some of the documents provided to the committee by the MSW program were difficult for the committee to review. The committee may need to consider stricter guidelines for program review documentation in order to avoid such issues in the future, Dean Marshall and M. Wilson suggested.

In terms of the program’s curriculum: Accreditors approved the content of that curriculum, so the committee deferred to their judgement, we will ask about online teaching.

In terms of the program’s students questions were raised about student representation in program governance and SOAP. We will also be asking about changes in admission policies and the outcome.

Concerns were expressed over faculty density; we will ask about recent and current searches, including diversity of hires and their role in the graduate program.

Regarding the SOAP, which is overall well done, some inconsistencies in terminology were noted, along with a missing course SWRK 292 that appeared to be linked so several outcomes. A very high percent of students are achieving the benchmarks; is this the expected standard?

Recent increases in release time for the program coordinator and professional development funds as a result of the recommendations by the accreditation review were noted. A final question is whether the program has a community based Advisory Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, Feb 5, 2019, at 2:00 pm in TA 117. The MSW team will visit during that meeting.

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Approval of Minutes from Jan 29, 2019, meeting  
2. Approval of Agenda

3. Communications and Announcements

4. Meeting with team for MSW review