

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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Office of the Academic Senate

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April 23, 2019

Members Present: M. Wilson, J. Marshall, K. Capeheart, P. Mahalik, N. Wang,  
S. Church, T. Lopez, D. Walker, S. Tracz

Guests: Sarah Lam, International Admissions, and Cheryl Chan  
from American English Institute:

2pm: Meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Wilson

1. Motion to approve minutes
2. Motion to approve agenda (as amended).
3. Communications and Announcements:
  - Kevin and Deb re-elected to UGC
  - David Lent elected from Science and Math
  - Reappointed to Graduate Curriculum Subcommittee: Steven Hart, Hollianne Marshall

2:10 pm: Guests, Dr. Lam and Dr. Chan joined Committee. Hard copies were provided of materials that they had forwarded.

- Guests provided to the Committee a detailed explanation of the different English Language Proficiency tests, advantages and disadvantages of each, and responded to questions about correlation between tests. They also acknowledged that they're simply asking for formal approval from the committee to do something they've already been doing. They are **asking approval to continue to use two other tests, the PTE and the ITAP, in addition to the IELTS and TOEFL, to assess English language proficiency for academic work from international applicants. They would also like to change ITEP minimum score to 4.5 from 5.0 and formally approve PTE minimum score of 53 (which is the current standard).** Detailed notes on this discussion are below, included beneath minutes for the Committee's discussion of Psychology.

2:45 pm Discussion concluded and guests were excused

- Dr. Lopez motioned to vote yes for proposal and all approved. Dr. Wilson agreed to write letter of confirmation.

- Dr. Wilson noted that we have a proposal for a MS in Athletic Training. It was submitted in the Fall but was not followed up. It won't be approved this semester, but we can at least begin the process. Committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, May 14 to consider proposal.

2:50 pm Committee moved on to discussion of Program Review materials from Psychology. Two graduate programs, almost 3, all reviewed separately. Materials are all included in one team report, which the Committee noted did not follow clear guidelines from UGC and others. Committee recognizes that we'll need to make different recommendations for the MA and EdS separately. Full notes are included below. Here is a summary of the Committee's somewhat abbreviated discussions:

- Commendation on overall quality and success of programs
  - Committee noted that the MA Program in Experimental and Research is a niche program but turns out excellent researchers.
- Faculty: Committee confirmed that they need to hire more faculty to support the School Psychology program.
- Space: Also a need identified by the Committee, especially given the large numbers of majors. Space for teaching and, especially, research is a significant challenge.
- Curriculum: Some concerns were raised over the overlap of the proposed emphasis in Research Design Analysis (RDA) with programs in Education. Committee recognized that one big question concerns the future of the General/Experimental Masters once the ABA option becomes independent in terms of how they will recruit and retain enough students to keep the program viable.

3:03 pm: Move to adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Approval of Minutes from April 2,3 2019, meeting
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Meet with team from Psychology
5. Nominations for UGC Chair for 2019-2020

**Notes on University Graduate Committee Discussions: Tuesday, April 23**

Dr. Chan: Students currently take two English Language Proficiency tests. IELTS and TOEFL, which is more well-known to American schools. Both tests are trusted and used as standard, high degree of validity. Focus on academic language. Very reliable tests and dependable, secure, safeguards in place, etc.

- Basic, Independent, and Proficient "levels": For both tests, Fresno State students tend to be on higher end of Independent User
- We are here to present two other tests as alternatives to IELTS and TOEFL for evaluating English Language proficiency for graduate students.

Dr. Lam: Two other tests (ITAP or PTE) are already being used and has been on acceptance list for many years. Not sure when they were included. Here today to consider merits of continued acceptance of these two.

Dr. Wilson: Asking us to just approve the continued use?

Dr. Marshall: two tests were never approved officially in for graduate admissions. Approval would change to include these two.

Dr. Tracz: What is the correlation between the two tests?

Dr. Chan: PTE is put out by Pearson Education. Strong marketing, deep connections with Educational community. Created their own scale for English language. In terms of validity and reliability, is comparable to IELTS and TOEFL, .73-.95 correlation. Security is important. All computer-based, must be taken at test center. Great variability in terms of test questions. Good accountability.

Dr. Tracz: Did they correlate with the CEFR? Yes, they did. Did not include that info., but there is a strong correlation.

Dr. Chan: explained correlation and average level for Fresno State students. Discussed charts and information compared to other CSU's. Wanted to point out other schools that take PTE. Wider acceptance because of Pearson's wide reach. Would 54-60 score, ideally.

Dr. Lam: Other schools will accept at 53, lower end of B2.

Dr. Lopez: What is current score for Fresno State?

Dr. Lam: 53. Still puts us in B2 range, comparable to other CSU's.

Dr. Lopez: Do higher scores equate to higher success?

Dr. Lam: CSULB asks for higher PTE but lower on other tests. All tests identify a range and that's what they're paying attention to.

Dr. Chan: High correlation identified but some discrepancy between scores and correlation.

Dr. Wang. Students only have to take one, correct?

Dr. Chan: All tests correlate really well. Some students think they can take a different test and really improve scores, but that doesn't really happen.

Tracz: Why CSU Monterey bay so high at 64?

Chan/Lam: Not sure.

Dr. Tracz: What's advantage of the PTE?

Dr. Chan: It has a fast turnaround. Can sign up two days in advance, results in 5 business days  
Not true of other tests.

Dr. Lam: We create more options but don't imagine big influx of PTE tests. Alternative option.  
Why remove it if it helps students and helps Admissions process.

Dr. Chan: ITEP isn't as well accepted, mostly because not run by Pearson. Looking at academics, validity, reliability, etc., but has very high correlation with IELTS and IBT. Security is high. Scores can be verified. Not an "adaptive" test. Not widely accepted in CSU's. Mentioned Humboldt State and other R2 and R3 institutions. Range in scores is interesting and working on correlation and comparison.

Dr. Lam: We would ask for a 4.5 score for ITEP since it is comparable to other tests. Also cheaper and more efficient, more convenient for students. Also ask for GRE, GMAT and other things to measure readiness for graduate study. **Asking to continue to use two other tests and change ITEP minimum score to 4.5 from 5.0. Want to approve PTE minimum score of 53 (current standard).**

Dr. Chan: We'd like to make test center an ITEP test center and have an "institutional ITEP," which will save students lots of money and make it easier to help students. No concerns about student success by providing more options for students. Looked at correlation between admissions test scores and GPA and there was no clear connection. We are aiming for a minimum requirement for admission, just to get the application in front of Dept/Program eyes.

M. Wilson: Any thoughts?

M. Wilson: email regarding reappointment of members to curriculum subcommittee

- Move to retain Steven Hart: approved

- Holly Ann Marshall: approved

M. Wilson: proposal for MS in Athletic Training is up before the committee.

Marshall: Nationally accrediting program changed degree requirements so they adjusted BA to create a MS program in Athletic Training. Not sure if it would still be offered as a BA. They spent two years on the proposal.

M. Wilson: Propose that we consider on Tuesday, May 14. Approved. Will send materials.

M. Wilson: will move on to discussion of Psychology materials. Two graduate programs, almost 3, all reviewed separately. Materials are all included in one team report, which did not follow guidelines from UGC.

- Have Dean's response and Departmental one. Need to make different recommendations for each separately, M.A. and EDS.

D. Walker: Do they need separate SOAPs for each program.

M. Wilson. Yes, and they've been submitted, though in this report they are together

D. Walker: Do they need separate SOAPs for each program.

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S. Tracz: they need faculty.

D. Walker: they need space

K. Capeheart: space for teaching and research.

T. Lopez: stats are great and impressive.

M. Wilson: not many issues with School Psych. Issues will be pointed out by accreditation report. We just need faculty. Will have 1 faculty member left. Put in request for 2 hires for Fall.  
- MA Program in Experimental and Research is a niche program, small, but turns out great researchers.

S. Tracz: some concerns with overlap in courses and similarity with certificate programs in Education.

Wilson: some questions about RDA (Research Data Analyst) that need to be considered. Curriculum is a concern with regard to RDA.

Wang: Question about practicum/internships in schools and where they are required, as well as with regard to balance between clinical and practical.

Mahalik: Recognition of importance of psychology for other disciplines.

Marshall: One big question is the future of the GE.

Lopez and Wilson: time sensitive decision because GE will be on their own and action plan needs to reflect how they'll get a sustainable number of students.

Move to adjourn at 3:03