

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

December 4, 2018

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall (ex officio), K. Capehart, T. Lopez,
P. Mahalik, D. Walker, S. Tracz, S. Church

Guests: Hollianne Marshall, Bernadette Muscat, Emma Hughes

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

1. Approval of Minutes from November 27, 2018, meeting
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements: None
4. Met with team from Criminology to discuss their Program Review
The following Criminology faculty presented: Hollianne Marshall, Bernadette Muscat, Emma Hughes.

Dr. Wilson asked for an update on the Criminology curriculum goals, creation of new courses, changes to present courses, looking for new instruction, redesigning one elective. The CR 295 course prepares students for taking comprehensive exams, and is now run as an elective. The original purpose of this course was to focus on contemporary issues, which is working well. They also want to increase elective courses, but these have low enrollments. Two electives are scheduled for next semester which makes three for this academic year which meets the target. It is good to have students to take their own electives instead of taking electives in other departments.

At this time the department plans to keep the focus of the M.A. on Criminology. There is disagreement about moving to toward a criminal justice focus as they are very research based. They have no formal training for law enforcement or prison people. They have a long term goal to have criminal justice needs met online.

Their cohorts are about a maximum of 20 each year, and they have pressure to increase enrollment. They want to grow enrollment, as they could offer multiple sections of courses then, but they don't know if they will have resources for this now.

If enrollment increased 70%, as recommended by the Program Review site team, they would need more graduate faculty to handle these students. Now they have 16 students. They hope to hire 2 more faculty by next year.

The majority of the new faculty are not currently teaching at graduate level, but they are moving newer faculty into graduate classes. Other changes are: the core course focused on criminal law was not delivering what students wanted; now they will have new adjunct who is a lawyer teach that course. Newer faculty will be chairing 6 or 7 theses per year; this year a little less than that due to smaller enrollment.

They have a larger cohort this year because Dr. Marshall attended workshops and learned about recruitment. They are reaching out more to their top students, and they have 3 or 4 recruitment meetings for honors and other students.

Chair Hughes responded to the question about vision: research vs applied focus. Their Criminology Advisory Board consultation indicated they would like to see more online classes. Some even wanted a 100% online program, but that is not planned at this time. They do see more opportunities for courses offered online. Their Certificate in Homeland Security will have an online course. The Advisory Board is more interested in applied courses, and thinks they are too research based and theoretical. However, one of their students won an outstanding professor award, and the departments feels they need to serve students who want to go on to do research. The Advisory Board values writing and research skills, and wants GIS and other skills.

Dr. Capehart asked about faculty as they have many part-time adjunct faculty. They said it was very rare to have an adjunct faculty teach a graduate class, except now for a sitting judge; other than that they always use full time faculty. For the elective topics courses, enrollment is around 15, and sometimes they have students from other departments. They had a couple failed searches with other departments. Now they are trying to have a diverse faculty pool and are reaching out at national conferences. They are not in a position to hire TAs.

Dr. Lopez asked about teaching 4 nights and offering between 4 and 5 courses per semester that students can choose from. Students were informally surveyed, and they are 50:50 wanting face-to-face and online.

Dr. Wilson asked about recruitment. The majority of increase in enrollment is from undergraduates in their program. Some out of state students came to work with particular faculty.

When asked about assessment they said they presented their rubrics and other materials in their binder. For their writing requirement they submit their lit review half way through the semester, which is judged by rubrics to determine if the students will continue. The content of paper is evaluated and must relate to criminal justice area. There are increased opportunities for students to work on grants, research projects, and internships.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2018, meeting
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Recommendations for Criminology Program Review
5. Approval of Math Degree Change Proposal (updated materials attached).