

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

5200 N. Barton Ave, M/S ML34

Fresno, California 93740-8014

Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

October 15, 2019

Members Present: S. Church (Chair), J. Marshall, K. Capehart, M. Lopez, N. Wang, S. Tracz,  
D. Lent

Members Excused: D. Walker

Guests: N/A

Chair Church called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in TA 117

I. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2019 with minor revisions.

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda

III. Communications and Announcements

A. Dean Marshall announced that the Coordinators' Meeting originally scheduled for November 14 has been rescheduled for December 5, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

IV. Recommendations for the M.A. in History Program

Commendations:

- The committee wishes to commend program faculty, especially the program coordinator, Dr. Brad Jones, for their clear commitment to students and for their work towards program improvements.
  - The program has effectively implemented a new recruitment strategy, focusing on faculty recruiting personally. As a result, the number of applicants, admitted students, and enrolled students have increased significantly.
  - The program has also increased notably the annual number of graduating students. In part, this is due to informal curricular changes in HIST 200a and HIST 200B, which now embed early students' likely research into coursework. This has significantly decrease the "bottleneck" created by the process of identifying a viable thesis topic.
- We also wish to commend the program for its focus on serving students and the community more effectively by connecting the two through various internships and research projects focused on local and/or oral history.

Recommendations:

- Committee members are unanimous in strongly recommending that the Dean of the College of Social Sciences reinstate a 3-WTU per semester release for the program coordinator (6 WTUs annually). There is clear evidence of precedent for

this practice (as the previous program coordinator received 6 WTUs annually, as do a number of other coordinators across campus, even in smaller programs).

- We also strongly recommend that, in collaboration with the Dean, program faculty pursue the formal institutionalization of Teaching Assistants, so as to better support graduate students, both financially and professionally.
- Likewise, we recommend that the program formalize the standardization of HIST 200A and HIST 200B, systematizing common practices and expectations, both for faculty and students.
- We also suggest the formal reconsideration of the teaching option, to allow for a 3-year credential + MA track.
- Finally, we suggest that program faculty consider also the possibility of a 4+1, accelerated program to leverage interest among undergraduate majors to complete the M.A. program.

MSC to recognize the program with a Notation of Quality and Promise.

V. Preliminary Discussion of Educational Leadership and Administration Elevation Proposal

Members discussed questions to pose to program representatives, who are scheduled to visit on October 22, 2019.

We noted few substantive problems with the proposal. Our one general concern is the lack of data regarding program completion numbers.

There are, however, a number of minor errors to correct:

- The edited catalog copy should be revised, as there are a number of errors. These include:
  1. references to the elevated program as both an MAE and an MA;
  2. the program description is unclear as edited; and
  3. the 31 unit count in the requirements section is unclear, as units per course are not specified.

VI. MSC to adjourn at 2:51 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, Oct 22, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda:

- I. Approve Minutes from 10-15-19
- II. Approve Agenda for 10-22-19
- III. Communications and Announcements
- IV. Representatives for MA in Educational Leadership and Administration visit to discuss option elevation