

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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November 3, 2020

Members Present: M. López (Chair), R. Sias, D. Lent, B. Sethuramasamyraja, K. Capehart, A. Hoskins, D. Walker, J. Marshall, and T. Taliaferro (observer).

Guests: Representatives from the Kremen School of Education & Human Development and from the Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation:

1. Randy Yerrick (Dean)
2. Kathee Godfrey (Interim Assoc. Dean)
3. Jenelle Pitt (Chair)
4. Dominiqua Griffin (Program Coordinator for School Counseling)
5. Soua Xiong (Program Coordinator for Student Affairs)

Meeting called to order via Zoom, by Chair López at 2:02 PM.

- I. Minutes: MSC to approve the minutes from 10/20/2020
- II. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda
- III. Updates/Announcements:
 - Dean Marshall elected to the Board of Directors for the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS). Fresno State has been an institutional member of the Council for many years. CGS is the largest international organization of graduate deans.
 - Dean Marshall reported that Xuanning Fu will be the Interim-Provost beginning in January 2021, and Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval will be the Interim-President of Fresno State. The Provost Office will send out a form shortly; it is an invite for people to self-nominate or for people to nominate someone else for the Interim-Associate Provost position. This will be an internal search.
 - Seeking clarification, Chair López asked the AY 2019-20 members for input on the ECE Elevation. The chair asked if there were more than one ECE. Dean Marshall explained that there are two ECEs: Early Childhood Education and Electrical and Computer Engineering. He stated that the MSC acted on the Electrical and Computer Engineering last year, under the direction of Chair

Stephen Church. Dr. López recalled that the UGC voted by email on the ECE elevation in April. She will reach out to Church for more clarification, and will draft an email stating that the committee reviewed the proposal and moved the ECE Elevation forward. Dean Marshall recommended that an email and the entire elevation proposal be sent to Venita Baker for the Senate and the Budgetary Committee.

IV. Counseling MS Program:

- At 2:12 PM via Zoom, the guests from the Kremen School and the Counseling Department were invited to join the meeting. Chair López welcomed the guests. Introductions were completed.
- Chair López thanked the guests for submitting documents for review. She stated that the committee had additional questions, following a description of the program and an overview of the review process from Drs. Pitt, Griffin, and Xiong.

Griffin explained that the Masters in Counseling has two options: School Counseling and SACC. Each option will admit about 20 students in the fall semester, but may have additional students in School Counseling to sign up for PPS credential. She stated that they had their review in the spring, and met with Dean Marshall to discuss the review, prior to attending this meeting.

Xiong explained that all students in both options receive the same Core Counseling training. He made the distinction that the SACC option's application of counseling skills is in the college setting, while School Counseling and PPS are at the K-12 level.

- López asked about the lack of faculty density. With a focus on sustainability, she asked for an update on faculty searches and any plans on adding to the number of faculty, in view of the extreme faculty to student ratio and the current small number of faculty.

Pitt reported that they have been approved for two faculty searches for the MS in Counseling, and Griffin and Xiong will serve as chairs for the respective SACC and School Counseling search committees.

Xiong explained the measures taken to diversify the applicant pool, and the application process closes on 11/23. In addition to the tenure-track line efforts, he and Griffin reported that they brought on an additional adjunct faculty member in the fall semester for the respective options.

Griffin also stated that each option will limit admissions to the fall semester, and will drop from 25 to 20 students in each option.

- López asked if they had given any thought about faculty/student ratio or attention to correcting the workload balance?

Pitt stated they are positioning the School Counseling and SACC options to gear up for CACREP accreditation, so as of now the ratios are not strictly applied. But they are intentional about having enough faculty to ensure high-quality instruction and advising. The School Counseling program is accredited through CTC, so they are mindful of the requirements for that accreditation. Regarding limiting the number of students, adding adjuncts, and hiring core and specialized faculty, they feel that will meet the present needs.

- D. Walker asked about COUN 208. Specifically, Walker asked for an update on how the Counseling program has modified those limited experiences, as well as asked what changes were made to improve students' abilities to complete the assessment forms/tools (i.e., observation logs, peer assessments, and final evaluations). According to Walker, the reports recommended that the process should be modified because only about half the students could accurately complete the forms/tools.

Xiong confirmed that students in the two options and in other counseling areas do complete the COUN 208 practicum together. He also suggested that the information that Walker read in the Annual Review 2018/19 might be misleading, as the information was not reflective of the student experiences at that time of the program, and was based on a conflation of information at different stages of the first-year and second-year student placement in observation experiences. At the time the report was written, he said that the recommendation was to maybe revisit or remove those observation items, and to complete a review of the process at a later date. Currently, the review process is ongoing. They are working with the Counseling 208 Coordinator (Dr. Greaves), in terms of collectively making changes across all counseling programs.

- As it relates to action plans in annual and end of the year reports, D. Walker asked for an update on pending items that are sometimes identified in the action plan reports as N/A, where an item/area might be noted as needing update, edit, or modification. For examples, Walker pointed to a Sept. 30, 2019 meeting, which took place before the annual review. She asked the representatives for an update about the changes, specifically closing the loop on things that they noticed from the last academic year, from that review.

Dr. Pitt suggested that Drs. Griffin and Xiong could answer the question by addressing anything that was highlighted through the SOAPs, either from

items that were addressed or are in progress. After some discussion between the guests, Xiong stated that he was trying to recall the Sept. 30th meeting.

Dr. Walker stated that this was from the assessment report for AY 2018-2019. She stated that it was her impression that they discussed the annual review assessment report at the Sept. 30th meeting.

For clarification, Dr. López explained that a concern the UGC identified is that the annual progress reports do not explain how the department closed the loops for the year before. Various reports show the same problem, for example, specifically in terms of students not being able to articulate counseling theories, which is evident in both the 2015 and 2016 reports.

Griffin stated that this is one thing that they hope will be solved by bringing on an additional faculty member because they will not have to develop a course that addresses counseling theories. She explained that right now students are able to take an undergrad course, but at the Master level, they don't have a specific counseling theory course.

Xiong added that going forward they will report any actions taken to show progression and show any corrected weaknesses. Xiong, Griffin, and Pitt shared examples of student successes in and outside of the classroom, which included mentoring students in research, presenting with students at conferences, publishing two manuscripts with two students, and partnering with school districts and part-time faculty to make that they are addressing what students are completing in the classroom. As a result, they are updating Coun 249 for the counseling disposition.

- López noted a student concern, where students must find their own placements for internships. She also asked how are internships working in the age of Covid-19?

Griffin agreed that placements are a problem. She stated that they are working with the Dean and Associate Dean of Kremen School and with Fresno Unified School District, as well as reaching out to other school districts to help student placements. One area that they have tapped into is to look at the MOUs of the different schools, so that Counseling doesn't have to get their own MOUs. For this semester, they reduced the field placement to 4 Units. Instead of 8 Units and completing 600 hours, this semester students will complete 300 hours, and will complete 300 hours next semester. This is an ongoing conversation. But they recognize that it has become a financial burden for students. They do have an Internship Coordinator (Coun 249), who coordinates the class. But the 249 Coordinator does not coordinate field placements. Griffin also stated that she expects that the program will

continue to receive this type of critique about the financial burden. Still, the 249 Coordinator will organize the expectations for the students and will look at the assessments used. On the other hand, school partners have asked that the Counseling Department come and visit the sites. But due to the lack of an internship coordinator and the limited School Counseling faculty members, visiting community sites is not possible. In turn, they have invited the site and school partners to attend 249 meetings.

With regard to SACC, Xiong stated since there is also no internship coordinator, and since he is the coordinator for the program and the only faculty member, he has informally taken on the role as coordinator for field placements in SACC. In addition, he actively meets with college partners and site supervisors to keep communication open. Even though students must find their own sites, they receive extensive support from him. The program encourages students to seek year-long placements. Xiong finds that most sites require at least a one-year commitment from students. His focus has been to foster the lines of communications.

- Dean Marshall recognized the given challenges, as the program review was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Marshall asked Dean Yerrick if the program will return to past practices, and what did he envision for the Kemen School, the Counseling options, and other counseling programs in post-Covid?

Dean Yerrick discussed added resources from the college, the importance of new faculty hires, and support from the Provost.

Chair López thanked the guest for coming.

MSC to adjourn at 3:02 PM.

The next meeting of the University Graduate Committee is scheduled for November 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Agenda:

- Approval of minutes for 11/3/2020
- Approval of agenda
- Updates / Announcements
- Final discussion re: Counseling MS program review