

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

March 22, 2022

Members Present: M. López (Chair), K. Capehart, D. Lent, R. Sias, D. Walker, A. Hoskins, G. Sharma, B. Seth, J. Goto (ex officio)

Member Excused: Student Rep.

Guests: N. Smith (KINES), S. Moore (KINES)

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Chair López on Zoom.

I. Minutes: MSC to approve the minutes from March 15, 2022

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda for March 22, 2022

III. Updates, Announcements, and Communications:

- A. Chair Lopez asks for 2 volunteers to help select the Graduate Medalist nominees. Review must be completed by Mar 30, 2022. Committee of 3 will meet next week. Email will be sent to solicit volunteers.
- B. Dean Goto announced a mixer tomorrow for committee and Graduate Coordinators.
- C. Dean Goto announced that students are being recruited to serve on the Title IX committee.

IV. Program Visit: Kinesiology Option Elevation Proposals

S. Moore shared that KINES is up for program review and has just submitted a program review. The Department Chair is on sabbatical this semester. There are two graduate programs in the department with three options that do not have a common core. No curriculum changes are being made, but some degrees are to be MA and others MS.

1. Re: enrollment

- o D. Lent asked about a robust number of applicants, but low enrollment numbers. Maintaining 5 graduates per year could be an issue for Title V. Do they have data to explain why?
  - i. S. Moore has noticed that the programs have about 10 - 20 students which is high enough, but are right at the boundary. The program has a lot of TA positions and other resources. Some faculty have become very

selective of candidates, but have left, so the selection process is being reevaluated to make sure that all good candidates are given an opportunity.

- ii. N. Smith mentioned that the undergrad program is supersized and that the interest is potentially there for graduate students with an investment from the University.
- Recruitment plans for individual elevated programs?
- 2. Re: faculty density
  - M. Lopez asked how will having three separate programs impact faculty-student ratios?
    - i. S. Moore mentioned that the core course of research methods and statistics were offered both semesters, but are now once a year due to numbers. The faculty would like to return to every semester.
    - ii. N. Smith mentioned that there is a good core of faculty that are filling in other programs. The programs can have growth by regrouping faculty to support the curriculum. The faculty is there, but a regrouping might be required.
- 3. Self Study
  - M. Lopez asked if self-study addresses the required support of the University.
    - i. S. Moore said that it does.
- 4. Units
  - D. Walker asked if catalog copy needed to be fixed to ensure that there was no confusion about the number of units being 30 for the program.
  - M. Lopez also asked about whether the culminating exam includes a number of units.
    - i. S. Moore is certain that the program only has 30 units and that it is a typo or language error that leads to the confusion.
- 5. Students
  - D. Lent asked about the number of students doing projects and theses.
    - i. S. Moore said that she knows that COVID has impacted the numbers and that faculty levels are also an issue; they have put in for three new faculty members. There are better ratios in the programs that have a higher tendency for projects and theses.
  - M. Lopez shared that 50 or 60% did comps last year.
- 6. Re: comprehensive exams
  - M. Lopez asked for an explanation of the 70% passing requirement for comps and noted that there is not a rubric.
    - i. S. Moore said that there are 6 questions worth 10 points each. The letters sent to students state whether they passed at a C, B, or A average. There are no rubrics because it would need to be specific to each question which would not be consistent with so many reviewers.
  - D. Walker asked about grading the comp for when there is only one faculty in the area.
    - i. S. Moore said that it is the graduate faculty member who taught the

course, or has experience in the area, that scores each question.

7. MS versus MA

- D. Lent asked for an explanation of the different degree types.
  - i. S. Moore said that it is consistent with most other programs in the field and that the respective faculty members in each group felt that the designations were appropriate.

8. Discussion and MSC

D. Lent has a concern of what happens if they do not get the hires they are requesting. There is concern that without the faculty they will not be able to support the three programs especially with a large portion of the students wanting to do projects or theses. There is concern for both faculty density and students. D. Walker does not believe that the programs are accredited, so there will not be the same outside pressure on the program. M. Lopez is concerned that only one faculty for a program is a significant concern. D. Walker asked if a blended program might be more appropriate than a traditional program. M. Lopez said that the 5 year data has been satisfactory for numbers, but barely, so there is still the concern. D. Lent mentioned that with such a large number of undergraduate students that the growth of the elevated programs will help to reduce brain drain from the Central Valley.

B. Seth motioned to elevate the programs. K. Capehart seconded and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:53 PM.

The UGC's next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2022.

Agenda:

- I. Approval of minutes from March 22, 2022
- II. Approval of Agenda for May 10, 2022
- III. Updates and Announcements
  - A. Committee membership and chair
  - B. End of year social
  - C. Late request: Interdisciplinary MA change - K. Masumoto
- IV. Catalog Revision Request: Biology - Diversity Statement Requirement