

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

October 26, 2021

Members Present: M. López (Chair), K. Capehart, D. Lent, G. Sharma, R. Sias, D. Walker, and J. Marshall (ex officio)

Member Excused: B. Sethuramasamyraja, A. Hoskins

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair López on Zoom.

I. Minutes: MSC to revise and approve the minutes for October 5, 2021

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the Agenda for October 26, 2021

III. Updates, Announcements, and Communications

- A. Dr. Joy Goto has been appointed as Interim Dean of DRGS effective Jan 3, 2022.
- B. Discussed December UGC meeting at Mad Duck.

IV. Discussion: International Affairs request to add Duolingo (cont.)

D. Lent discussed his concern that the materials submitted did not answer any of UGCs questions and use internal Duolingo documents. He also agrees with A. Hoskin's argument except he is not ready to vote for the permanent acceptance of Duolingo. R. Silas asked which other CSUs use Duolingo. T. López looked up other CSUs who accept Duolingo and found CSULA.

D. Lent asked how score cut-offs are set. T. López did not ask this question of Sarah Lam. J. Marshall informed the committee that the score is set at the institution level. He agrees that efficacy and data that correlate test scores with retention and graduation is important and should be tracked.

MSC for temporary approval of Duolingo up to the Spring 2025 cycle. The UGC requests at that time correlative data scores with student success metrics of rates of retention, GPA, and rates of graduation, prior to long term acceptance of Duolingo.

V. Discussion about Ed Leadership Program Change GRE

Dean Marshall reported that as per the Chancellor's office, use of the GRE is a campus choice, and that Title V does not discuss the GRE.

MSC to approve the program change to the GRE for Ed. Leadership.

VI. Program Review of externally accredited programs

After consideration, Chair López agrees with Dr. Lent about issues previously discussed about the abbreviated program review process, but would like to find a method for UGC to

add value to this process, in terms of faculty representation, without the addition of unnecessary work for graduate coordinators and/or the department. A discussion ensued regarding use of a template, developed by Technology Services, or a process that isn't onerous but that ensures faculty representation. The template was discussed as a method to inform the committee's consent calendar. UGC could review the 3 items currently required for an abbreviated program review and decide if more information from the program is required, or if an in person meeting with the committee is required to clarify concerns.

K. Capehart stated being amenable to this type of process and believes involvement of UGC is important for faculty representation.

Dean Marshall inquired about the materials UGC would review other than those currently required by DRGS (the SOAP, the letter documenting national accreditation, and the OIE data set which includes an analysis of faculty density and equity gaps).

D. Lent asked what information the letter from the accrediting body includes. Dean Marshall told the committee that the letter of national accreditation to the University is only the statement of accreditation but does not include site visit report findings. Findings of the site visit includes program strengths and recommendations. Dean Marshall further informed the committee that the term of the accreditation can give further insight into concerns of the accrediting body. Short accreditation periods, 2 years, likely indicate that there are areas of concern, compared to 7-year accreditation periods which indicates stronger accreditation recommendations. Infrequently an accrediting body will deny accreditation or put a program on suspension.

Chair López added that the site report could be useful for the committee to review in order to get a better understanding of the findings from the site visit team.

K. Capehart shared a summary of a site report.

D. Lent suggested that only programs with concerns from UGC receive a letter. D. Walker asked about department follow-up in response to a letter from the committee. Chair Lopez reminded the committee that UGC is a part of Academic Senate and therefore all committee discussions are documented in the minutes. Chair López asked Dean Marshall how to present a policy change recommendation. Dean Marshall gave a brief history of the initiation of the abbreviated program review and the change in practice because of the pandemic after the Senate first enacted the policy. As per Dean Marshall, any policy updates go to him as Dean of DRGS. Dean Marshall recommended an email be sent from UGC to him and cc'd to Venita.

D. Lent requested a written policy to review before a vote is called. Chair López offered to write the first policy draft, upload it onto the UGC Google Drive for committee review before a vote is called. The vote can occur via email as per Chair López.

MSC to adjourn at 2:57 PM.

Agenda for November 9, 2021

- I. Approval of minutes from October 26, 2021

- II. Approval of Agenda for November 9, 2021
- III. Updates and Announcements
- IV. Catalog Revision Proposals:
 - A. Biology – GRE
 - B. Applied Behavior Analysis – GRE
 - C. School Psychology – GRE
 - D. General Psych – GRE
 - E. Industrial Tech – Grad Writing Requirement
- V. Teaching American History - Certificate Discontinuation