

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
5241 N. Maple, M/S TA43
Fresno, California 93740-8027
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

November 9, 2021

Members Present: M. López (Chair), K. Capehart, D. Lent, R. Sias, D. Walker, and
J. Marshall (ex officio); M. Jagtap (student rep)

Member Excused: B. Sethuramasamyraja, G. Sharma

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

I. Minutes: MSC to revise and approve the minutes for October 26, 2021

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the Agenda for November 9, 2021

III. Updates, Announcements, and Communications:

- J. Marshall suggests that before the end of the semester we invite interim Dean Joy Goto to an upcoming meeting or event. Chair López will reach out to Dean Goto to arrange to meet on November 30th.
- Chair López proposes that the final meeting of the semester, on December 7, be set aside for socialization.

IV. Catalog Change Requests

- Three psychology programs, Applied Behavior Analysis, School Psychology and General Psychology, are changing language to remove GRE from their admission requirements. Additionally, School Psychology will remove the CBEST from required material for admissions.
 - A. Hoskins asked about the 72-unit requirement for one degree. This is appropriate for the specific program in question. D. Walker asked why we are reviewing these, since GRE was waived. It was clarified the waiver of GRE was only temporary and these requests are to be made permanent. It was noted by J. Marshall that these are programmatic changes, and these require approval from the UGC. Chair López notes that many of these approvals are akin to consent calendar items and may require minimal review prior to approval. J. Marshall reiterates that this is part of shared governance, and these programmatic changes require a full review, even if changes are trivial, as the changes may impact various offices and processes across the University.
 - MSC to remove GRE for the three graduate programs in Psychology (Applied Behavior Analysis, School Psychology and General Psychology) and the CBEST from the School Psychology.
- The MS in Biology program proposed changes to their program description and clarified the admissions requirements to be admitted to the MS program. J. Marshall

communicated issues with ambiguity in language resulted in possible disenfranchising international students. Chair López wanted to know if the GRE was meaningful in any way and what went into the Biology Department's decision to require GRE for some but not others. J. Marshall notes that some programs already require some students to take the GRE but not others, so there is precedence. K. Capehart asked how this GRE requirement for international students isn't discriminatory. J. Marshall notes that we don't often have the ability to evaluate the quality of foreign degrees and the GRE allows for additional scrutiny. D. Walker voiced her concern about equity.

- M. Jagtap notes that GRE scores can result in rejection of international student visas. She thinks that GRE should be required for international students and have posted the specific score requirements that students must meet for admission. She noted that a focus on analytical writing would be preferable. Chair López will take notes and potentially follow-up with the International Office (S. Lam) regarding concerns listed by student representative M. Jagtap.
- MSC to approve catalog revision proposal for the MS in Biology.
- Industrial Technology program requests that AGRI 220 be removed, and that IT 285 be added to the courses available to fulfill the Graduate Writing Requirement. J. Marshall notes that if the GWR is embedded in a course, it must be a course that everyone takes as part of their graduate curriculum. K. Capehart and R. Sias were both concerned about the rigor of embedding this requirement in a course. Chair López points out that the syllabus lays out the requirements and assessment to fulfill the requirement. As long as University standards are met, the course embedded GWR should fulfill requirements.
 - MSC to approve catalog revision for the MS in Industrial Technology for the Graduate Writing Requirement.

V. History is requesting the elimination of the Certificate in Teaching American History.

- Chair López provided history regarding creation of an option and the certificate. The Certificate provides no benefit to teachers and no individual has participated in this program.
 - MSC to approve proposal to discontinue the Certificate of Advanced Study in Teaching American History.

VI. MSC to adjourn at 2:55PM.

The UGC's next meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Agenda for November 30, 2021

- I. Approval of minutes from November 9, 2021
- II. Approval of Agenda for November 30, 2021
- III. Updates and Announcements
 - A. Reminder - End-of-semester get-together December 7, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Mad Duck
 - B. APM 233
- IV. Introductions: Interim Dean Joy Goto
- V. COVID GRE waivers -- Fall 2022