

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

September 7, 2021

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

Members Excused: B. Sethuramasamyraja

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. on Zoom by Chair M. López

- I. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of August 31, 2021
- II. Agenda: MSC to approve agenda for September 7, 2021
- III. Communications and Announcement
 - a. J. Marshall announced that the first Fall Grad coordinators meeting is scheduled for 9/21 at 8am. A second meeting will be scheduled for some time in the late-October through mid-November time frame.
 - b. The applications for the Interim Dean of Graduate Studies are due on Friday. To date, there are 0 applications. There are currently a number of searches for Deans and Cabinet level positions, so it is unclear how long an interim Dean will serve.
 - i) Due to an unforeseen teaching conflict, B. Sethuramasamyraja is not able to attend committee meetings. Chair López reached out to the Academic Senate for guidance. Unlike sabbatical breaks, this scenario is not covered in the APM. Senate Chair Ray Hall underscored the need for all colleges to be represented on the committee, but suggested a compromise may be reached to allow representation this semester without need for the election of a new representative. After consulting with B. Sethuramasamyraja, the plan is for B. Sethuramasamyraja to prepare for our meetings and offer input/feedback asynchronously.
- IV. Visit by Program Representatives: Options Proposal - Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
 - a. Committee pre-discussion:
 - i) J. Marshall reached out to the Chancellor's Office for clarification regarding whether there is precedential variable-credit graduate programs. There are not, as Title V disallows such credit variability.
 - ii) Chair López asked whether comprehensive exams should have credits associated with them.
 - (1) It has never been done, but need clarification if it would violate policy
 - (2) Some departments have a course where the comprehensive exam is a component of the course, but the course credit includes review of material in addition to solely taking the exam.

- b. Joined by Y. Castillo and A. Becton
 - i) The accreditation visit had suggested the two options and was the driving motivation for the change.
 - (1) After submitting the proposal to create the two options, a full eight-year accreditation was awarded.
 - ii) D. Lent asked if the current faculty level was able to appropriately provide guidance for the approximately 90 students in the program, especially with all three faculty members being Assistant Professors.
 - (1) Y. Castillo replied that there is a strong adjunct pool, as well as support from other units. However, the department has requested an additional line because of the program's size and the likelihood that the number of students will increase because of the two options being separated.
 - (2) A. Becton added that, in addition to accreditation, there is also the need to have licensure consideration in the curriculum.
 - iii) D. Walker asked about the number of students completing each type of culminating experience.
 - (1) A. Becton shared that 93.6% of students in 2019 took the comprehensive exam. Y. Castillo mentioned that she has never had an advisee complete a project or a thesis.
 - (2) The students seem to value sitting for a national licensing exam more than a project or thesis.
 - iv) D. Walker brought up the fact that all culminating experiences must be of equal rigor and require the same total number of units.
 - (1) Y. Castillo thought that the proposal only had the option of comprehensive exam.
 - (2) J. Marshall commented that in his experience, taking options away from students is not ideal, even if very few students pursue a particular option.
 - v) J. Marshall emphasized that the number of units needed to be consistent.
 - vi) M. López asked whether the committee has the most current version of the proposal, since the documents reviewed had multiple culminating experience options. Y. Castillo stated that the program had decided to offer only the comprehensive exam option.
 - (1) Y. Castillo discussed that the 60 credits were all needed to meet licensing requirements, so students could not substitute 298 or 299 credit and still fulfill licensure requirements.
 - vii) Moving forward, it seems as though most of the required changes are in verbiage rather than fundamental changes. J. Marshall did not see a likely reason for the entire committee to need to review the updated language.
 - viii) M. López promised a written response within two weeks.

V. MSC adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Agenda for September 14, 2021

- I. Approval of the Minutes from September 7
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Updates and Announcements
- IV. Presentation by Marcee Varela on APM 233 (Time certain 2:10 p.m.)
- V. Discussion of Recommendations: CRMHC Options Proposal