

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
5200 N. Barton Ave M/S UL34
Fresno, California 93740-8014
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

October 10, 2023

Members Present: M. López (Chair), J. Goto (ex officio), L. Diala, A. Hoskins, D. Lent,
N. Mahalik

Members Absent : M. Crawford, S. Hernandez

Guests: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair López.

- I. MSC to approve the minutes from October 3, 2023
- II. MSC to approve the agenda for October 10, 2023
- III. Communication and Announcements
 - Re: APM 311: Teaching Associates -- M. Lopez shared that Personnel Committee has concern regarding whether FAFSA was included in other policies, but confirmed that language was changed throughout
 - Re: APM 206: Online Courses -- M. Lopez has been asked to serve in an ad-hoc committee with reps from UGC, AP&P, and the blended programs committee to review and revise the policy.
 - L. Diala shared that her program is working under the max percentage of online courses set by the Provost's office.
 - Re: Blended Degree Programs -- D. Lent shared that the committee working on the creation of blended degree programs plan to submit program proposals preemptively, in advance of the university having a clear policy and/or processes in place.
 - J. Goto shared, from CSU Grad Deans meeting, that Fresno State is not alone in still working out these policies/procedures.
- IV. Geology - Catalog Revision - Admission Requirements

- N. Mahalik -- the two changes are the removal of the GRE and the requirement that an advisor be identified prior to admission. GEOL cited Biology program as precedential example.
 - D. Lent -- the motivation for Biology was to make sure that students could graduate in two years. However, issues may arise if student/advisor pairing is not a fit; what do you do when no one can support them.
 - M. Lopez asked if the faculty therefore needs to approve of addition of person to lab group?
 - D. Lent said that there is a policy requiring a meeting with advisor and that all students are thesis students.
 - M. Lopez asks about how students find out about work done by faculty.
 - D. Lent shared that the website is now being updated regularly to include what projects are available by faculty, when positions are available, etc.
 - N. Mahalik shared that it seems like it could be limiting for students to need to be assigned a topic before discovering their research interests. In his department, the students spend the first year learning about their own interests with the ability to switch faculty.
 - D. Lent shared that for their students giving them a chance to explore resulted in no graduating on time; 1.5 years of research is required for the research and the only way to keep students on track was to come in with an advisor. Also, if students do not work out, usually a switch is not problematic if it is due to the change being due to a difference in path rather than issue of performance.
 - D. Lent suggested having written policies for students changing labs and to use quadrant IV of the application to include the advisor's name.
 - MSC to approve catalog changes for MS in Geology.
5. APM 218 - Policy on Credit for Prior Learning
- M. Lopez – confusion over numbering of policy -- the old APM 218 covered history GE graduation requirements.
 - New APM 218 is for prior learning.
 - M. Lopez reminded that up to 9 units can be transferred from a previous institution. Would prior learning units fall within this max?

- D. Lent -- the language limits amount counted towards undergraduate and not to graduate.
- A. Hoskins commented that there is a difference between undergrad and graduate courses in that undergraduates take many lower level courses from outside of the major while graduate students are taking all, or a vast majority of their courses, in the specific department.
- J. Goto is concerned about the potential of double counting service credit for both the undergraduate and graduate courses thereby double counting the work.
- M. Lopez commented that leaving max limit consideration to an external agency might allow for violation of internal policies on re: external units.
- J. Goto would like to see APM moved to the grouping that is for both undergraduate and graduate students.
 - D. Lent -- the only language for graduate students in 218 is about Armed Service education.
 - J. Goto does not think that we have had a case previously that dealt with using examinations based on educational experiences in the armed services.
 - D. Lent is concerned that work from the military might not align with appropriate courses in the program.
- M. Lopez suggested that the DRGS policies state that any credit for prior experiences not exceed the 9 outside units that can be transferred currently.
- MSC for M. Lopez to write memo to Senate with concerns: 1) change numbering of APM to be in area of both levels of programs and 2) that restrictions placed on undergraduate be applied to both types of programs striking out baccalaureate. Passed unanimously.

MSC to adjourn at 2:59 p.m.

The next meeting of the University Graduate Committee will be at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24 in TA 117.

Agenda for Tuesday, October 24, 2023

- I. Approval of minutes from October 10, 2023

- II. Approval of agenda for October 24, 2023
- III. Communications and Announcements
- IV. Catalog Change Request: MA in Reading
- V. Review of Interdisciplinary Studies MA/MS