

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

November 28th, 2023

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

Members Excused: M. Crawford

Guests: N/A

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

- I. MSC to approve the minutes from November 14th, 2023
- II. MSC to approve the agenda for November 28th, 2023
- III. Communication and Announcements
 - Included an action item for a change catalog request – Addition of an independent study for an MA in Public Administration - curriculum subcommittee has already reviewed and approved the changes.
- IV. Catalog Change Request -- MPA
 - The committee discussed the nuts and bolts of independent study. The unit count, comprehensive exams and what it takes to earn the degree. There will not be a need for GRE.
 - MSC to approve the catalog change request including the removal of the GRE was made and voted on, with all in favor.
- V. Catalog Change Request -- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner CAS
 - D. Lent asked for their justification for the admissions requirement changes. Chair explained that this was due to the newness of the program.
 - MSC to approve the admissions requirement changes was made and voted on, with all in favor.
- VI. Interdisciplinary MA/MS Programs
 - Re: Home program or department
 - M. Lopez brought the topic up for consideration. Committee agreed that there should be a “home program or department”, most likely that of the Thesis Committee chair.

- Re: Admissions Requirements
 - Question is: which component program's requirements would the student need to meet? The highest from those among the programs? If one program requires the GRE, would the student have to meet that requirement?
 - D. Lent asked if there are standards already for which the admissions requirement would be on par.
 - A. Hoskins asked that we prioritize the requirements for the "home" program versus those of a program where the student may take one or a couple of classes.
- Re: Who would coordinate the Interdisciplinary Program
 - M. Lopez asked whether it should be the home program's Graduate Coordinator or the Thesis Chair.
 - D. Lent says it should not fall on the coordinator; the individual faculty member sponsoring and mentoring that student may be more appropriate.
 - If that is the case, M. Lopez recommended that a manual be put together to guide the Thesis Chair.
- Re: Methods Class Requirement
 - Chair discussed the idea of the methods class and its place as a requirement.
 - S. Hernandez not all programs require a methods course, so this would be an additional requirement.
 - N. Mahalik noted that methods courses may present a logistical barrier, if course is not offered because of low enrolment, for example. He cited other departments, which may sometimes need to have students take a different methods course.
 - Committee agreed we should not require a methods class for the Interdisciplinary Program, although one may be part of the proposed course of study..
- Re: Thesis Committee vs. Graduate Consultative Group
 - As currently framed, it is unclear whether the required 5 faculty signatories make up a graduate group or the thesis committee.
 - S. Hernandez mentioned that APM requires 5 members for graduate groups.
 - M. Lopez recommends doing away with 5 committee members being required.
 - J.Goto recommends the graduate group be made up of 3 faculty.
 - D. Lent commented that we keep the number at 3 for both the graduate group and the thesis committee.

- o N. Mahalik put out the scenario: What would be the dynamics if there are say 3 departments, would there necessarily be faculty from all the 3 departments for the student?
 - A. Hoskins suggested that if the thesis is related to a department, then a faculty from that department would need to be part of the thesis.
 - M. Lopez discussed the potential logistical complications for instance in the scenario of 3 departments being relevant, having the committee member requirement might be more complicated for the student.
- M. Lopez also noted that as it stands currently, the proposal does not require a justification for who serves in the committee (in terms of which department or program they come from).
- M. Lopez will begin a redline draft.

MSC to adjourn at 2:51 p.m.

The next meeting of the University Graduate Committee will be Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda for Tuesday, December 5, 2023

- I. Approval of minutes from November 28, 2023
- II. Approval of agenda for December 5, 2023
- III. Communications and Announcements
- IV. Interdisciplinary Studies MA/MS