

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

April 23, 2024

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

Members Absent: 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 April 16, 2024
- II. MSC to approve the agenda for April 23, 2024
- III. Communication and Announcements
  - López: Chair López will be on sabbatical leave next AY. A new UGC chair should be elected by the end of this semester, so Chair López can onboard and transfer UGC documents to the elected chair.
  - López: The term of the representative from Craig School of Business to the Graduate Curriculum Sub-Committee ends this semester. A new representative, Shu Wang, accepted the nomination and has been appointed.
- IV. MS in Geology Program Review (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)
  - Chair López confirmed that the previous review panel's recommendations included in this cycle's Self-Study report were specific to the MS program. Mentions of the BS program dealt solely with recruitment efforts for the MS in Geology program.
  - UGC members have serious concerns regarding the program's viability as it currently stands. Applications, admissions, and enrollment numbers are down to unsustainable levels. Additionally, graduation numbers (even before the pandemic) are below Title V minimum requirements (5 graduates per AY). Moreover, while the program has taken some actions in response to the previous review recommendations (including the creation of an onboarding course), no significant action seems to have been taken in areas of recruitment and retention.

- Chair Lopez will invite GEOL representatives to attend one of the next UGC meetings. UGC members identified the following questions to be asked to the visitors.
  - The MS in Geology seems to have sufficient enrollment (on average 15-17) and sufficient courses offered / FTEs (4 courses per semester on average, with 9 FTEs).
    - Are these students continuously enrolled?
    - With extremely low new enrollment, how can the program offer the onboarding course regularly and in a timely fashion?
  - While seemingly healthy in numbers, admission and enrollment have been in steady decline since before the pandemic.
    - What recruitment actions have been taken? If unsuccessful, how have they been amended?
  - For the last 6 years, the program has not met Title V minimum graduation requirements.
    - What is the average completion time?
    - Why is the 3-year graduation rate below 40%?
    - What actions have been taken to close this loop?
- UGC members also noted that the GEOL program's assessment plan is not being followed. Especially detrimental is that clear loops remain, as noted above, that must be closed. Lack of assessments identified in the program not only during and after COVID but also since 2015.
- The possibility of two options rather than two exclusive programs (Geology and EES) was also discussed. However, nothing appears promising when Title V is taken into account.
- **MSC** to recommend Conditional Continuation of the program. Specific conditions and timeline will be discussed and voted upon after the visit from the program representatives.

#### V. Program Conversion to fully online synchronous: MA in Education – MME Option

- The Committee reviewed the program conversion proposal for the Master of Arts in Education - Multilingual, and Multicultural Education (MME) Option.
  - A successful program, only a few programs in CA, and the program is growing.
- The proposal identifies a number of courses that are already offered solely in online synchronous modality. However, it is unclear whether other required and elective courses are likewise in place.

- o Chair Lopez will seek clarification regarding whether CI 240, CI 285, C2 (what is C2?), LEE 214, LEE 215, and LING 146 have been approved for and are currently offered in online synchronous modality.
- The Committee noted the unusual term “online virtual synchronous” in the proposal. The proposal needs to address the edits for the Catalog.
- **MSC** to approve the program conversion of the Master of Arts in Education – MME Option, contingent upon confirmation that all the required and elective courses have been appropriately approved for delivery in online synchronous modality.

MSC to adjourn at 3:03 p.m.

The next meeting of the University Graduate Committee is scheduled for April 30, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda for April 30, 2024

- I. Approval of the minutes from April 23, 2024
- II. Approval of the agenda for April 30, 2024
- III. Communication and Announcements