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

March 21, 2017

Members Present: T.Skeen (Chair), R. Raeisi, M. Lopez, P. Trueblood, N. Mahalik, M. Wilson

Members Excused: J. Marshall, S. Tracz

Guests: N/A

Chair Skeen called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. in TA 117

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2017
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda
3. Communications and Announcements: N/A
4. Program Review Discussion: M.A. in Mathematics

Members discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the Mathematics M.A. program. Commendations, concerns, and recommendations were as follows:

For commendations, members highlighted:

* The high quality of the program’s faculty, including their impressive scholarship and publication record.
* The department’s clear and extensive engagement with the community.

As concerns, members noted:

* As currently in effect, the program options do not meet policy requirements regarding the required number of core courses all options must share.
* There is evidence of neither the implementation of the graduate SOAP nor of any discussion or plan of action based on assessment results. Committee members noted this is a serious concern that must be remedied immediately.
* The extremely low number of enrolled students in the program. Committee members are concerned about the continued viability of the program should the department fail to outreach more broadly and effectively. While a recently-developed outreach plan was furnished to committee members, we noted that the plan does not tackle recruitment of international students (although this was a strategy highlighted by the faculty in their visit to our committee).

Recommendations are as follows:

* While committee members understand that a program change from M.A. to M.S. is being considered, we strongly recommend that interim changes be put in place meet policy requirement regarding the program’s core courses.
* Since current enrollment is so low as to make it difficult to offer required courses consistently, we recommend the program develop a more aggressive outreach plan, including specific information about recruitment of both Fresno State undergraduates and international students.
* If, as discussed in the visit to our committee, the department will request the shift to an M.S., we recommend that Assessment Data be utilized to justify such a transition. We are not convinced that the current justifications, as explained in the meeting, will be sufficient for the granting of such a change.

MSC to Approve as a Program of Quality and Promise, with the implementation of the above noted recommendations and improvements.

1. Preliminary Program Review Discussion: M.S. in Physics

Members discussed the program review materials and identified an area regarding which we need further information: program enrollment and viability. Committee members noted that the Physics program is very small, with an average new student enrollment of 5. Members also noted that the admission to enrollment ratio is approximately 50%. In view of these numbers, members would like further information regarding:

* + 1. the cost and viability of maintaining such small class numbers,
    2. what known reasons, if any, seem to block recruitment of Fresno State undergraduates into the graduate program, and
    3. further details about the program’s outreach and recruitment plans.

MSC to adjourn at 2:46 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda

Approval of the 3/21/17 Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

Communications and Announcements

Continue discussion of Physics M.S.