# MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

# 5200 N. Barton Ave, M/S ML 34

# Fresno, California 93740-8014

# Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

November 3, 2015

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall, P. Trueblood, A. Nambiar, D. Vera, S. Tracz, T. Skeen, M. Lopez, R. Raeisi

Guests: J. Gilbert, C. Jackson, M. Lowe, J. McAlpine, S. Scott, R. Gomez

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 2:02 p.m. in Thomas #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve with minor edits the minutes of October 27, 2015.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
   1. Dean Marshall informed members that TA tuition waivers have been approved by the Academic Senate. Once President Castro approves, a policy for implementation will be written. The issues for doctoral students were resolved. The policy was also amended so that international students will be eligible.
   2. Dr. Lopez informed members that the Graduate Statistics Studio is now open and available to masters and doctoral students. The Studio is located in the Graduate Study Center, which is on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library.
4. Program Review of Kinesiology
   1. Dr. Jackson presented the Program Review and said the Kinesiology Department had a very good review team. Their major problem is that they have too many undergraduate students, which impacts faculty load at the graduate level. They are still working to determine the appropriate or optimal number of students. The Review Team had suggested group projects to alleviate workload, but Dr. Gilbert said the graduate faculty had discussed this recommendation and don’t want to do that at this time. Dr. Jackson noted that group projects don’t fit with their department direction and the experiences they want their graduate students to have. They are happy with the number of graduate students they have and don’t want more.
   2. Dr. Wilson suggested that their SOAP appears too ambitious. Dr. Jackson replied that their previous soap was much larger, and that now several of their SOAP committee members are working to Qualtrics has helped with measurement. Dr. Wilson asked about the alumni survey. Dr. McAlpline said they are revising alumni survey; at the graduate level, they got 89 responses. However, they didn’t ask about was the current employment of graduates, but that will be corrected on the next survey. They try to get alumni involved via Facebook and Instagram.
   3. Changes made in response to the survey included revising the advanced exercise physiology class back into 2 courses, as graduates said had too much information was presented for one class. Interviews revealed both graduate and undergraduate students want more hands on experiences. As a result, faculty are now putting labs back in the program. Expanded labs for undergraduates have limited their ability to involve graduate students in research; the department has requested more lab space that would enable them to do more studies. Graduate faculty value their research and lab experiences and the time they spend with students.
   4. Dr. Trueblood asked about the culminating experiences: the number of faculty chairing theses and projects and how many graduates choose comprehensive exams. The response was that all kinesiology faculty have a lot of theses. Besides the time involved in thesis supervision, faculty also supervise internships.
   5. Dr. Sailor said that several years ago they made the decision that their graduate programs were their top priority. As evidence, their recruiting structure has 10 points of contact that potential graduate applicants will receive before they come here including letters from the chair and student emails. Dr. Gilbert suggested that getting a good GA to help with recruitment was crucial. They now have students talk to prospective applicants, and that works well. As a result, their reach has broadened past Fresno. Now international students recognize the expertise of their faculty. Dean Marshall suggested Dr. Gilbert should talk to other program coordinators about effective recruitment.
   6. Dr. Trueblood asked about their plan for new hires as this was not mentioned in the Department response. Dr. Sailor said they do have a search going on now. However, they now have 800 exercise students, but only 5 faculty. Low faculty numbers was stated as the reason why they restrict theses.
   7. Dr. Wilson asked about space as the final question. The response was that they were really feeling good about getting more space and working well with athletics to share facilities.
   8. The visit finished with positive comments from the UGC about the work they are doing. Recommendations will be developed at the next UGC meeting.
5. Graduate Research Symposium
   1. Dean Marshall said that the Graduate Committee had previous discussions about the Graduate Research Symposium and they hope to make it more contemporary. UCLA’s research symposium is incorporating a new discrimination strategy besides oral presentations and posters, 3 minute presentations modeled after TED talks which are brief, compelling presentations, taking a complex idea that students as researchers know well, and making it accessible to the audience. The UGC received a video with examples. There are who quickly present what they did, why, the results and its significance. They are staged with an audience on all different types of topics. Graduate students are charged to craft these talks. Attention is given to the impact or significance of that research for a general population. Dr. Lopez is training the Grad Net fellows to do this. The UGC discussed the feasibility and pragmatics of adding the brief presentations to the current GRS format. One suggestion was students could sign up for poster or oral and then also do a 3 minutes talk. Dr. Wilson said the committee will continue to explore this concept.
6. MSC: to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Thomas 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 11/3/2015.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

3. Communications and Announcements.

4. Recommendations for Graduate Program Review in Kinesiology