MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

January 24, 2017

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

Members Excused: N. Mahalik

Guests: K. Ayotte

Chair Skeen called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. in TA 117

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of Nov. 29, 2016
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda
3. Communications and Announcements:

* Grad Coordinators Breakfast 2/16/2017. Agenda to be announced.
* Graduate Research Symposium has been merged with Central California Research Symposium to be held April 18-19 in the Peters Business Center.
* Dean Marshall and Chair Skeen reported on the Academic Affairs Task Force. Their committee is to re-imagine graduate studies and research affairs.
* T. Skeen announced that the need for repeated memos to financial aid for students in the MFA program routinely going over minimum hours while on track in the program has been eliminated.
* M. Lopez communicated that Grad Net has 2 grants available to support graduate students: the research grant (deadline Feb. 3) and the new grad internship grant. Announcements have been made to grad coordinators via the listserv.

1. Graduate Tuition Waivers Discussion: Guest: Kevin Ayotte, Chair, Academic Senate

Questions were raised regarding Tuition Waivers for Teaching Associates.

* Are international students eligible? Theoretically yes but applicants have to fill out FAFSA and they can’t as international students are not eligible for financial aid. Out of state graduate students can fill out the FAFSA but are not necessary to meet the criteria which says TAs who receive the State Tuition Grant (SUG) are ineligible for the waiver – as out-of-state students don’t get SUG anyway.
* The original goal of limiting TA waivers to students not receiving SUG was to spread the $$ among students . . . but some from Exec. Comm. / Arts & Humanities suggested that the students receiving the SUGs may still be in greater need. Teri Lopez asked if there were data that suggested there are needier students with SUGs? Answer – we don’t have information and cannot get it as confidential to financial aid. The disbursement of funds is complicated by the fact some students are awarded SUGs later in semester – after they have already received the TA waiver and some get partial SUG.
* Money distributed to colleges based on the number of TAs SUG eligible. The colleges determine which get TA waivers. They can use larger amounts to recruit a few – or distribute more equitably among more students. How the funds are disbursed seems to vary by college.
* Broader questions: Discussion of how to obtain more financial support for graduate students via development? How to obtain more visibility and credibility for graduate education?
* Follow up discussion on APM 311 next week.

5) Move to defer discussion of Program Review for Special Education to 1/31/17. Meeting with representatives from the program and college will be tentatively scheduled for the following week, 2/7/17.

6) MSC to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 1/24/17
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Discussion on APM 311
5. Preparation for the Program Review of M.S. in Special Education (Dean Beare, Professors Lam, Alamillo and Coy on February 7th, time certain 2:20 p.m.)