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 5, 2019

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), K. Capehart, M. Lopez, N. Mahalik, N. Wang

Members Excused: D. Walker, S. Church, S. Tracz

Guests: N/A

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in TA 117

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2019 with minor corrections.
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
   1. Chair Wilson announced that the degree change from M.A. to M.S. submitted by the Mathematics program has been approved by the Academic Senate and forwarded to the President for his approval.
   2. Dr. Lopez shared with committee members the major points discussed during the Graduate Coordinator’s breakfast on February 28.
4. Continuation of Preliminary Discussion: Program Review of M.S. in Engineering

The UGC reviewed the materials submitted for the Engineering Program Review, with focus on the Electrical and Computer Engineering Options. The committee determined areas to be followed up on with department and college representatives on March 12, 2019.

Some areas for discussion are:

* Curriculum - Dr. Wang

The program has developed a strong curriculum, but it is unclear whether they offer enough required courses within their own program, rather than depending in cross-disciplinary offerings by other programs.

Ibid regarding electives

This is particularly concerning considering the program’s plan to separate ECE into a stand alone program independent from Mechanical Engineering.

* Students – Dr. Lopez

1. There is a notably low enrollment from students admitted (23% of a usual 150 applications). Why this low rate?
2. As close to 80% of those students are international, how do they plan to remain sustainable, in view of decreasing numbers of international students at Fresno State?
3. A very high of failure (32% of students flunk out; compared to less than 18% university-wide). This is very concerning and should be re-thought. How do they explain this? What retention / success services do they offer students?
4. Outreach to local students? Females? (Again, approximately 80% international)

* Collaborations – Dr. Mahalik

Do ECE faculty collaborate with faculty in Math, Computer Science, the Jordan School of Agriculture?

Jordan research building utilization?

* SOAP – Dr. Mahalik

Commendation on a strong SOAP. Some minor discrepancies noted.

Different benchmarks for different SLOs. Please clarify.

Why is SLO 5 the most challenging?

Recommend that students be connected to subject-specific librarian, Chris Langer

SLO benchmark noted at 75%, but narrative mentions a) that “D’ is a passing grade, and 2) that a 58% is a “D”. Please clarify.

As per university graduate policy, “Note: No courses with grades below “C” may be listed on the student’s “Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.”

1. MSC to adjourn at 2:55 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, March 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2019, meeting  
2. Approval of Agenda

3. Communications and Announcements

4. Meet with team from the Mechanical Engineering Degree