MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Fresno, California 93740-8027

Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

March 26, 2019

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall (ex officio), K. Capehart, N. Wang, S. Church, S. Tracz, D. Walker, N. Mahalik, M. Lopez

Members Excused: N/A

Guests: Dean Ram Nunna, Riadh Munjy (chair), Bill Wright (graduate coordinator)

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. in TA 117

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of March 19, 2019.
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda
3. Communications and Announcements

* Dean Marshall announced that Annual Graduate student-faculty Mixer will be celebrated on May 7th, 4-7 pm at Smittcamp Alumni House this year. The Mixer is intended to celebrate the work of graduate students and the faculty. The focus of the event is to recognize the outstanding graduate students who the programs believe are ambassadors.
* Dean Marshall also announced the Graduate Coordinator Reception will be held in Vintage room on 04/10/2019.

1. Met with Program Review team for Civil Engineering
   1. Program updates:
      1. Enrollment (classified and conditional) AY 2014 = 13 students, Fall 2018 = 49, Spring = 47 students (12 students in water resource program/ 35 students in general CE); class enrollment Fall 2017 averaged 12 students with lowest enrollment of 3 once but general range of 8-23 students. Fall 2018 average 18 students/class.
      2. New faculty member hired. A search is in progress for 1 additional faculty.
         1. New faculty may have choice of department (CE or ME) with high speed rail engineering emphasis.
   2. Questions:
      1. Curriculum:

* No specific course needs were noted. Transportation courses are new at the graduate level, started 3 years ago with the addition of 2 additional faculty. Previous course limitations in this area were due to limited faculty. Geomatics historically has had 2-3 students at a time but had an enrollment drop concurrent with the retirement of 3 faculty. The department has since been able to hire 3 new faculty.
* Five to seven graduate level courses are offered every semester. Core courses are rotated through the curriculum one time per year. Students graduate in a timely manner.
* Dual listed courses meet University guidelines (APM 207) that ensures graduate students do more work than undergraduates.
* What is the status of blended bachelor/master program? There is no double counting of courses in the Master program. Blended courses do not contribute to culminating experience.
  + The only benefit of the blended program is to allow a student to take a grad level courses before their last undergraduate semester.

Faculty:

* There have been a number of recent hires. Given the current enrollment, the 18 faculty are sufficient although class sizes range from 45-50 for upper division undergraduate students. More faculty are needed if enrollment increases or in order to lower class sizes.
* Faculty need for planned Geomatics Masters. The idea is to combine real estate law with geomatics because to include property and real estate. There are many creative ideas for this new program; online class development is slow.
* Faculty are awarded WTUs for supervision of student theses and projects.
  + Mapping of students to thesis/project chair. Currently this is an informal process in which the graduate coordinator facilitates the student choice of senior faculty.
  + There is a subcommittee currently working on a more formal process.
  + Most graduate students are employed in the industry projects are more relevant.
  + Dean Marshall inquired if excellent student projects from CE would consider piloting the Fresno State repository.

Students:

* Student enrollment seems stable. Fresno state undergraduates are primary student pool. The percentage of international students is low.
* Recruitment is informal primarily of Fresno State undergraduate students with new faculty as the main source of recruitment. Currently there is no local competition for Civil Engineering grad students but this will change in 2021 when UC Merced begins a new CE graduate program with emphasis in water. Retention should not be a problem as most students work locally and attend school at night. It is projected that the new US Merced program will primarily attract students north of Merced.
* PR team report mentioned office space for students? As per grad coordinator, there is an opportunity to create new student space above the department.

SOAP:

* Commendation on a clear and updated SOAP
* Faculty submit SOAP data to Graduate Coordinator every semester.
* For the few students who choose a comprehensive exam SLO #7, oral expression, is not assessed.
* Recommendation: If curriculum is redesigned with goals on leadership, incorporate into SOAP. Dean Marshall recommend this go into the action plan to be submitted Fall 2019.

Facilities & Support

* College has supported new faculty
* Generous funding for updating labs
* Program hopes to continue tuition fee waivers before getting new space. Tuition fee waivers are used to recruit the highest performing undergraduate Fresno State students.

1. MSC to adjourn at 2:58 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda for next meeting (April 2, 2019):

1. Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2019, meeting  
2. Approval of Agenda

3. Communications and Announcements

4. Guest: Vang Vang from Henry Madden Library

4. Recommendations for Civil Engineering Program Review

5. Prepare for Construction Management Proposal