MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

May 2, 2023

Members Present: M. López (Chair), J. Goto (ex officio), A. Hoskins, D. Lent, E. Parrilla, B.Sethuramasamyraja, R. Sias

Members Excused: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair López.

1. MSC to approve minutes from April 18, 2023
2. MSC to approve agenda for May 2, 2023
3. Communications and announcements:
   1. Dean Goto shared that 5 departments hope to convert in-person graduate programs to completely digital ones. She is working to refine the process to avoid duplication of effort. UGC will discuss in the Fall.
   2. The program review for Kinesiology has been received. Due to the end of the semester and not wanting the review to span semesters, the item is tabled until the Fall. Chair López will tentatively schedule the meeting with department representatives to expedite the process as much as possible in Fall.
   3. Senate elections were held and there is currently a representative for each college. However, R. Sias will be on sabbatical next year, so a replacement needs to be appropriately identified. Chair López will inform the Senate office and work with Venita on the process.
   4. Chair López will continue to serve as chair for the next year. At the beginning of the Fall semester, she will provide an orientation meeting for the new members of the committee.
4. Catalog Change Requests for MBA: The program requests removing the seven-year time cap on undergraduate courses at Fresno State to count towards fulfillment of prerequisites. J. Goto confirmed that there is no policy on time limits for fulfillment of prerequisite courses. The program also requests the removal of the option to use exams to replace prerequisites. A third request is to remove the word “Traditional” from the title. A fourth request is to remove the need for preapproval of study aboard courses to count towards the degree. The committee is concerned about the broad language allowing students to count any course taken as part of a study abroad course and inquired whether there were any safeguards to ensure that all courses are pertinent. Chair López will reach out to the program for clarification. If needed, the letter written to the program will specify the concern that students might exploit this potential loophole.

MSC to approve pending clarification of study abroad allowances.

1. Catalog Change Requests for Civil Engineering: The proposal is for students to have the option to submit GRE scores.

E. Parrilla mentioned the concern for bias if students take advantage of this option. The concern is that students who provide this optional information would be given preference over students who did not.

B.Sethuramasamyraja mentioned that for international students, the GRE might be required to secure a visa. In some countries, being accepted into a program is not sufficient and there is the need to prove a high likelihood of success in the program demonstrated by GRE scores.

A. Hoskins mentioned that the optional designation might be a means to compromise between those members of the department who want to move away from the GRE and those members of the department who do not want the requirement to go away. The college curriculum committee rejected the transitional to an optional requirement.

In addition to international students needing to provide a GRE score for a visa, students with a low GPA or students from a less academically rigorous program might benefit from including their GRE scores to demonstrate their overall abilities.

MSC to approve request.

1. Discussion: APM 221 - Redlined version questions
2. There are two parts to the documentation: 1) blended bachelor and masters programs and 2) blended masters and doctoral programs. The APM should cover both topics. R. Sivas suggested two separate sections with language at the beginning of the APM directing readers to the appropriate section.
3. The blended masters / doctoral programs language is fairly broad, but Chair López indicated that the blueprints submitted by the programs would specify details. That being the case, broad language is more appropriate in the policy, minimizing the need for later amendments.
4. Chair López shared that Senate would likely not take up the APM until the end of the Fall semester, so there is not a need to rush to approve the language. J. Goto will share the proposed language with appropriately campus organizations, such as International Affairs, to get additional feedback over the summer before a final vote during the Fall semester.
5. Chair López will amend the document for additional review at the next meeting.

MSC: Adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

The next meeting of the University Graduate Committee will be at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9 in TA 117.

Agenda for May 9, 2023

1. Approval of minutes from May 2, 2023
2. Approval of agenda for May 9, 2023
3. Communications and announcements
4. Option Elevation – Mechanical Engineering