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

October 17, 2017

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall, S. Tracz, S. Church, M. Lopez, N. Mahalik, N. Wang

Guests: D. Avila, S. Jimenez-Sandoval, P. Sanmartin

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of October 10, 2017 as corrected.
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements

* The request to terminate MS in Marine Science is approved.
* Dean Marshall discussed thesis completion and submission regulations, which was presented to deans in the following categories:
  + On-time: submit thesis by posted deadline, usually 4 weeks prior to final week of semester.
  + More time needed: finish by last day of semester, must pay in GS Continuation ($350.00).
  + Out-of-time: students who need additional work with faculty must enroll in departments 299C and pay stateside fees ($2,505.50).
* The University is trying to get Adobe Creative Suite at an affordable price for students.
* The award subcommittee for GNI selected graduate fellowship students.

1. Program review with M.A. in Spanish.

The representatives who came to this Graduate Committee meeting included Dean S. Jimenez-Sandoval, Dr. P. Sanmartin, Spanish Program Coordinator, and Dr. D. Avila, Chair of the Spanish Department.

They provided information on the number of students enrolled in the graduate program and enrollment trends. They discussed various recruitment methods. Some are able to serve as TAs. Discussion included career outcomes for their graduates. Many become Spanish teachers.

Many students are part-time for financial reasons. This has altered the course offerings at the graduate level; they offered 3 courses in Spring and Fall of 2017 and these make. Courses are offered from 5:00-7:50 p.m. to fit student schedules and needs. The UGC suggested making a plan for several years of when each course will be offered to aid students in planning their graduate program.

Most student choose to do a project; it was noted all culminating events require substantial faculty time and more faculty might be needed. They are currently hiring a poetry faculty member. It was also suggested that Spanish faculty look for creative ways to solve staffing issues like looking for intersections, for example, between Mexican and Caribbean literature so other faculty’s expertise could be utilized. Part of the workload problem was the poor writing skills of some students. It was noted that all Spanish projects and theses are written in Spanish. Dr. Lopez asked about a peer support system for writing or a writing class in Spanish might be helpful in improving Spanish writing skills.

Spanish faculty are working on updating their SOAP each semester. Dr. Wilson suggested that rubric evaluations for projects and theses was one way to look at quality, and this information could be in the SOAP.

1. MSC to adjourn at 2:57 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda

Approval of the October 17, 2017 Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

Communications and Announcements

Recommendations for Spanish M.A.

Preparation for MPA program review