MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

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*Fresno, California 93740-8014*

October 08, 2019

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

Members Excused: N/A

Guests: B. Jones (Coordinator), E. Kytle (Chair), M. DenBeste (Dean), Y. Takahashi (Associate Dean)

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. in TA 117 by Chair S. Church.

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of September 24, 2019
2. Agenda: MSC to approve agenda
3. Communications and Announcements

Theresa reminded us that the Program Review Orientation is scheduled for next Tuesday, October 15, 2019, from 10:00-11:00 am in HML room 3212.

J. Marshall announced that Fresno State student, Sheryl Rodriguez, received Dissertation Award from Education.org.

S. Church announced he has not heard from Melinda Murray about her proposal.

S. Church also announced plans for our upcoming meetings. During our next meeting on October 15th, we’ll review an elevation of the Educational Leadership & Administration option of the MA in Education.

1. Meeting with Representatives of the MA in History Program

S. Church asked about the current admission status. B. Jones stated they admitted around 15 students, and 3 to 4 students will graduate in fall, 2019. He also mentioned some students failed 299 and switched to comprehensive exam, which delayed their graduation.

S. Church asked about the faculty workload for 299 Thesis Advising. B. Jones said the workload for the faculty didn’t change. He also mentioned the graduate faculty team consists of all tenured faculty.

K. Capehart asked how many 299C student can take and if this is a problem. B. Jones approved as current students’ average graduate time is 3 years. In the last 4-5 years, almost all students had to work and some stepped out and came back, which made the process a little lengthy. However in recent years, only one student ran out of the 5-year graduation time.

M. Lopez mentioned a large portion of the students do not ultimately obtain an MA in History. Students often earn a teaching credential while working towards the degree and then exit with that credential without an MA. Among those who ultimately obtain an MA in History, they often take three to four years to do so, largely because of delays associated with writing their thesis. J. Marshall suggested the program connects the credential and the MA studying.

When discussing funding problems the department is facing, D. Lent suggested to modify the curriculum and divide some big classes to several sections, so that faculty can teach the class and graduate student can run the labs as TA’s. B. Jones stated they have one class like that, and they can talk about it.

S. Church asked about the recruitment effort. B. Jones said they talked a lot about the issue. All faculty members are trying to reach out to the students, identify best undergraduates, and talk to them about the MA Program. J. Marshall mentioned the 4+1 programs currently developing in engineering programs. B. Jones said they graduated 9 students last semester and 3-4 in this semester. The program is healthy.

D. Walker expressed the concern regarding the assessment data of the program. A lot of data is missing or out-of-date. B. Jones promised he would try to keep the assessment data up-to-date.

S. Church asked about the issues with HIST 200A&B. B. Jones said the courses are introductory courses and used to be problematic in part b/c the content depended on who taught them. B. Jones recognized need for standardization and potentially need to formalize some standardization that’s already in place. The two courses take one year and students want to graduate in two years. In 200A&B, the students need to start to figure out their research topics and produce research papers. Now the students have a clearer comprehensive study line.

B. Jones also stated 3-unit release time is not nearly enough for the heavy job as a coordinator. His work is overwhelming even during summer break. He needs more support.

Dean M. DenBeste stated she loves the program and will try to locate more funding through fund raising, grants, and other sources to support the program. She also wants to study more on the idea to divide big classes to smaller sections and allow graduate students to run them.

1. MSC adjourned at 3 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

1. Agenda for Oct. 15, 2019
2. Approval of Oct. 8, 2019, minutes
3. Approval of agenda
4. Communications and announcements
5. Recommendation for History MA Program
6. Review an elevation of the Educational Leadership & Administration option of the MA in Education.