

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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Fresno, California 93740-8023  
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

March 24, 2009

Members Present: T. Skeen (Chair), S. Brown-Welty, K. Carey, P. English,  
N. Mahalik, S. Skelton, Z. Wang, R. Yazdipour.

Members Absent: G. Kriehn (excused).

Visitors: J. Gilbert & J. McMillen-Kinesiology, Sports Administration

The meeting was called to order by Chair Skeen at 2:00 p.m. in the University Center #203.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of March 17, 2009.

2. Agenda: MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.

3. Communications and Announcements.

None.

4. Language Requirement for the English, MFA in Creative Writing.

MSC to suspend the language requirement for the MFA in Creative Writing for a period of three years and forward to the Graduate Curriculum Subcommittee for additional review.

5. Sports Administration Option (2:20 time certain).

Visiting faculty from Kinesiology arrived at 2:20 pm to discuss their proposed Sports Administration Option. Discussions then moved to the said topic.

a. In response to questions regarding coordination with School of Business' undergraduate Sports Marketing Option and any possible cooperation, J. McMillen and J. Gilbert stated that they had held talks on the proposal with a number of business faculty and admin, including Marketing's Chair R. Motameni and Associate Dean L. Zelezny.

b. Discussions then continued on Students Learning Outcomes as outlined in Appendix A of the submitted proposal. The committee suggested the need for a Time Line for implementation in regard to the outcomes and measurements discussed in the said appendix.

c. Questions were also asked regarding "approved outside area courses" as stated on page 4 of the proposal. The visiting faculty stated such classes may include MBA or similar courses.

- d. The committee also suggested the need for creating more internship opportunities locally for students.
- e. Along the discussions, the visiting faculty stated the main reason for switching from concentration to option had to do with the fact that the option would be noted on the students' transcripts but the concentration would not.

Visiting faculty left at 2:50 p.m.

- 6. (APM 322) Policy on Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness.
  - a. On the positive side, the committee felt the proposed policy was a comprehensive document covering the main areas of the issue. However, there was unanimous agreement among the committee members that parts of the submitted document were excessive, unmanageable, and unworkable in graduate classes. For example, the requirement of three (3) peer evaluations requiring a minimum of eight (8) hours of observation in each class for a total of 24 hours of class visit for each evaluated course-- simply by its excessiveness, the proposal infringes upon faculty rights and autonomy, and does not even take into account the work required for the faculty members tasked with performing the evaluations.
  - b. The committee also felt if the purpose of the policy was to phase out classroom peer evaluations all together in favor of the Peer Evaluation of Course-Related Materials--which is itself problematic in terms of evaluating classroom effectiveness--then there must be better ways to do it.
  - c. Furthermore, the committee felt that any future evaluation instrument needs to be not only comprehensive but also formative, manageable and practical.

MSC to reject the proposed (APM 322) Policy on Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness as submitted for the reasons stated above.

MSC to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the University Center, Room #203.

Agenda.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of 3/24/09.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda.
- 3. Communications and Announcements.
- 4. Discussion of Sports Admin Option.
- 5. Discussion of History Certificate (2:20 p.m. confirmed).