

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
5240 N. Jackson Avenue, M/S UC 43
Fresno, California 93740-8023
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

September 30, 2008

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

Members Absent: N. Mahalik (excused).

Visitors: None.

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

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of September 23, 2008 as amended:
Add an "s" at the end of the word "student" in item 4.c.
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.

Chair T. Skeen distributed copies of two new programs sent to the committee for review- "Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies" and "Special Education". The committee scheduled discussion of the first program for 10/21/08. S. Skelton will communicate the date to involved parties at his school. Chair T. Skeen will contact Paul Beare for scheduling a date for the second program- Special Education.

4. New Business. The International English Language Testing Service (IELTS).

The committee discussed setting a minimum score for the said test, as requested by Dean K. Carey. It was stated that the average acceptable score for the test among CSU campuses seemed to be around 6.5/8. The committee also found out that the score for the Pencil/Paper version of the test ranged from a low of 313 to a high of 677. Given more data was needed to make a final decision, it was decided that the issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Graduate/undergraduate cross-listed courses.

Chair T. Skeen mentioned that he and G. Kriehn would get back to the committee with some new information and facts by the next meeting time.

6. Graduate student symposium.

Dean K. Carey started by saying that there seemed to be some concerns regarding the proposed graduate-level symposium vis-à-vis the already established Central California Research Symposium (CCRS). Specifically, some were concerned that the proposed new symposium might take away from the CCRS, especially when the 2011 Statewide competition for CCRS would take place in Fresno.

Discussions continued on such possibility. After examining the two symposia more closely, it appeared that there were clear distinctions between the two venues- esp. when the proposed grad-level symposium would mostly focus on projects and theses. Also the new venue would not have the “Math and Science” emphasis that the CCRS currently seems to have. Moreover, CCRS’s March date is too early for many graduate students as such students would benefit from a May date- the tentative date proposed for the new symposium.

At the end, it was suggested that the item be placed on the agenda for next meeting for further discussion. In the meantime, it was suggested that the committee members to find out how the faculty and students at their respective schools feel about the new proposal.

7. Graduate student advisory board.

Postponed.

MSC to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the University Center, Room #203.

Agenda.

1. Approval of the Minutes of 9/30/08.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. M.A. in International Relations and the M.P.A. in Public Administration.
5. The International English Language Testing Service (IELTS).
6. Graduate student symposium.
7. Graduate student advisory board.