

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
5241 N. Maple, M/S TA 43  
Office of the Academic Senate ext. 8-2743

March 22, 2011

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), K. Carey, N. P. Mahalik, R. Raeisi, M. Stevens, T. Wein, R. Yazdipour

Members Absent: S. Brown-Welty (excused), S. Skelton

Visitors: P. Beare, J. Benninga, J. Marshall, W. Ullrich

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 2:00 p.m. in Thomas #117

1. Minutes MSC to approve the Minutes of 3/8/2011 as submitted.
2. Agenda MSC to approve Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.
  - A. Dean Carey announced that she had met with the Executive Board to present the policy on zero units. Questions and discussion followed; the Board then endorsed the policy change. It was then presented to the full Academic Senate on March 21, 2011, even though this is not an item on which they vote. Questions were raised but the policy was ultimately endorsed. The policy now awaits an announcement from Provost Covino, which will be tendered in the form of a mass email to students and all coordinators; the policy will be effective Fall 2011.
  - B. Dean Carey also reported on the Acton Plan meeting for the official MA in Computer Science.
  - C. Dean Carey reminded the Committee of the upcoming Graduate Research symposium, proposals for which had a deadline of March 24, 2011. In addition, she announced the change of Fall Graduate Orientation to Thursday, August 18, 2011.
  - D. Chair Wilson reported that the MA in Reading on-line program had received approval from the Academic Senate and from President Welty.

E. Chair Wilson informed the Committee that the tenure of three members sitting on the Graduate Curriculum Sub-committee expired in the near future. She said she will contact all three to learn if they are interested in re-appointment. If not, she will contact their respective Deans for nominations.

4. Masters in Teaching (MAT)

Visitors from the School of Education reported on the program's successes and concerns.

Description and successes: This fourth alternative degree program is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> cohort, with roughly 40 students per cohort having passed through. The program is popular and supported by administration. The MAT has three options for the culminating event: project, thesis, and comprehensive exam. Last year, two-thirds of students elected to take the comprehensive exam in satisfaction of their degree. Originally students were recruited from the CALTeach program and transferred in 9 units of electives from that on-line credential program. Currently, the program offers a number of independent studies for the electives; however, the newly approved Masters in Reading program on-line will furnish electives in future. The program was capped at twenty-five students per cohort two years ago but has recently reopened the numbers it will admit.

Concerns: The program preceded the formal inauguration of on-line studies by TILT. As a result, the MAT syllabi may not be congruent with their criteria. Continuity presents the greatest challenge: faculty are being groomed to teach in the program but not to coordinate. The long-term sustainability of the program is a definite problem. The visitors were advised that a detailed SOAP will need to be developed and implemented.

MSC: To recommend Conditional Approval for the Master in Teaching (MAT) Program.

MSC to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, March 29, 2011, in TA 117.

Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of March 22, 2011.
2. Approval of the Agenda.

3. Communications and Announcements.
4. Appointments to the Graduate Curriculum Sub-committee.
5. Program Review: Autism specialization for Special Education. Time certain: 2:20 p.m.
6. Presentation on Zero Units policy: Wein, English Department.