# 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

November 18, 2014

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), S. Witte, A. Nambiar, D. Vera, S. Tracz, M. Lopez, R. Reza

Members Excused: P. Trueblood

Guests: Dr. James Marshall

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 2:04 p.m. in Thomas #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve with minor edits the minutes of 10/28/2014.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as amended to show the addition of a discussion of program review policies for programs with external accreditation processes.
3. Communications and Announcements.

a. Dean Witte announced that paperwork for the filling of the vacant staff position in the DGS has been submitted to HR. Once these materials are processed through e-Recruit and approved, the top candidate will receive the offer. The candidate is likely to accept the offer.

d. Chair Wilson updated members on upcoming agenda items:

1. The second reading of the proposal for the web-based Certificate of Advanced Study in Community & Regional Planning is scheduled for November 25;
2. Discussion of the Viticulture and Enology pilot MS is tentatively scheduled for December 2.
3. Discussion of WASC requirements for Meaning, Quality and Integrity of Master’s programs
   1. Dr. Marshall recapped for members the history of the WASC request for the inclusion in our university self-study of a university-wide statement regarding the meaning, quality, and integrity of Master’s programs at Fresno State. Although in the past two years the university was developed institutional-level learning outcomes for all undergraduate programs, no similar effort has yet been made for post-baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral programs. We are tasked with developing this statement (and, if needed, related policies).
   2. Discussion of the meaning of the three core terms to consider followed. While we have in place several ways to define and measure our programs’ quality and integrity, we need to link those to the “meaning” of graduate degrees at our institution, that is, what makes our degrees unique. Committee members considered the possibility of developing institution-wide learning outcomes at the graduate level, as well as various alternative approaches. Attention was given particularly to developing a statement of “meaning” focusing on our graduate programs’ community focus, practical student engagement, and the transformational nature of graduate study at Fresno State. Dr. Nambiar pointed out the need for a student and alumni survey to help us ascertain what, in their minds, makes our graduate experience unique. Dr. Lopez added that a similar survey for graduate faculty might also be helpful in this area.
4. Program review policy for programs with external accreditation processes
   1. Dean Witte re-capped for committee members the history of this issue. The UGC decided that programs with external accreditation processes must nevertheless fulfill internal program review requirements. However, we have yet to decide which parts of the internal review process must be added if not already part of the accrediting process. Vice-provost Dennis Nef has suggested that each program identify and submit as addendum the “missing” review parts. Chair Wilson pointed out an unresolved problem, that is, that such added parts would not have actually been subject to review. The question of who will review these parts and make a recommendation to the UGC therefore remains. Further discussion of this issue has been added to our agenda for next semester.
5. MSC: to adjourn at 2:53 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Thomas 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 11/18/14.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

3. Communications and Announcement

4. Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Community and Regional

Planning: 2nd Reading

5. WASC Gradate Degree program meaning, quality, and integrity discussion: Next Steps