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

March 14, 2017

Members Present: T.Skeen (Chair), J. Marshall, R. Raeisi, M. Lopez, S. Tracz, N. Mahalik, M. Wilson, P. Trueblood

Guests: Interim Dean R. Dundas, Interim Associate Dean A. Hassom, Chair R. Amarsinghe, O. Vega

Chair Skeen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of March 7, 2017
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda
3. Communications and Announcements

* Dean Marshall noted there will be a graduate recognition event on April 20, 2017, in the Smittcamp Alumni House. Graduate coordinators have been asked to nominate an outstanding student from their program.
* Committee members were reminded that terms were up for several this spring, and encouraged to file nomination papers.

1. Mathematics Program Review

Guests (Dean Dundas, Associate Dean Hasson, Chair Amarasinghe and   
Dr. Vega, representative of the graduate program) from Math were welcomed. Chair Skeen began the discussion by commending the department on their strong faculty.

The first question posed by the UGC was the proposed change from the M.A. to M.S. degree. The department had begun significant planning for this change at a recent retreat. They will be also converting the undergraduate degree from B.A. to B.S. and indicated that will happen before the graduate program change. Dr. Vega indicated the department had a team working on the changes, and were well aware of the steps required through the university and CSU system to formalize the degree change. The revised program would contain a more cohesive core between the current options and potentially add options in areas such as statistics when they are able to hire more faculty. The revised program will be more rigorous. Besides developing a stronger core, one reason for making the change was to potentially attract international students.

The department recognizes the need to attract more graduate students to be able to offer courses on a regular basis. They have developed a recruitment plan that will be shared with the UGC. Besides more actively recruiting their own undergraduate students and others from the community, the department is looking at interdisciplinary NSF and STEM grants as recruitment tools.

There was some discussion of the Program Review Team recommendation to drop the subject GRE as an admission requirement. The department has changed from using a qualifying exam. They had updated their SOAP.

Other discussion included the adequacy of their computer labs and software; Chair Amarasinghe noted their greatest need was for more classrooms. The future of remedial courses in math and the implications for undergraduate student success and TA opportunities were argued.

The UGC will made recommendations at their meeting next week.

6. MSC to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda:

Approval of the 3/14 Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

Communications and Announcements

M.A. Mathematics Recommendations

Preliminary discussion of Program Review for Physics