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

October 16, 2018

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall (ex officio), K. Capehart, T. Lopez,   
P. Mahalik, D. Walker, N. Wang, S. Church,

Members Excused: S. Tracz

Guests: Dr. Marianne Jackson, Coordinator, ABA Option in MA, Psychology

Assoc. Dean, Dr. Alam Hasson

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by M. Wilson

1. Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2018, meeting

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Communications and Announcements:

- No new announcements from Dr. Marshall

- Academic Senate has approved WASC Assessment of Graduate Core Competencies. M. Jordine will be at next Grad Coordinator Meeting to consult on implementation.

2:15: M. ABA Psychology Elevation Discussion

* Dr. M. Jackson asked to provide an Intro and brief history of ABA program as option. The program began as an undergraduate specialization and became graduate program option in 2006. The program grew, as well as clinical application, including at one time, an autism clinic on campus. The faculty has ranged from one to four over recent years. Currently faculty numbers have stabilized.
* The curriculum is driven by International BCBA Board Certification process. The program is designed to meet academic and clinical requirements to sit for the BCBA exam. When initially designed as an option there was sufficient overlap with the General Experimental program but at present, only one course is shared (4 units). Therefore the option must be elevated to an independent program as per Executive Order 1071.

**Graduates:**

N. Wang: Graduation rate appears to be low. Is it accurate to describe the program as a 2-year program?

* M. Jackson: Loss of Dr. Adams meant only one faculty with 25-30 students in one lab. Various transitions with faculty cause challenges for processing students through degree. The graduation rate has improved recently.

**Edits and Typos:**

Discrepancies between the description of the program in the elevation proposal and the catalogue description of the program were noted. Elective is 6-8 in one place and 7 (an odd number) in another.

* M. Jackson: confirmed that these are errors that will be fixed.

-“introduced,” “developed,” and “mastered” language for mapping student learning outcomes on p. 3 of the proposal is not consistent with the “introduced,” “reinforced,” and “advanced” language in the curriculum map of the proposed SOAP.

- M. Jackson: confirmed inconsistency. Latter is correct. Will make changes identified.

- T. Lopez: pointed out importance of getting catalog copy correct and how it can reduce their flexibility. Need to make sure proposal reflects the language you want.

- M. Wilson: pointed out that 244 should be 244A.

**Teach out Policy**

Language for the teach-out policy. The committee agreed we would recommend language based on previous successful evaluations.

- J. Marshall: pointed out minimum of 5 faculty requirement. OK with the faculty you’ve listed because they are tenured/tenure track at Fresno State. But also need to graduate 5 students per year to be viable and is subject to cancellation. Noted that some years graduation numbers are less than 5. Need to make a compelling argument for demand and for sustainable faculty and projection of needs for more faculty, combined with emphasis and plan for recruitment.

**SOAP**

D. Walker: How are the SLO’s or SOAP changing to reflect licensing requirements?

- M. Jackson: Expect a slow down in changes from Board in 5th edition of requirements, a “levelling off of reqs.” Unless massive changes, we hope it won’t change SOAP dramatically. First time we’ve had our own SOAP.

- D. Walker: intention to use survey information?

- M. Jackson: Yes, that would be the goal. Will help us to revise it as we go. When we gather information, we’ll have a better sense of how to use them.

- P. Mahalik: question about accrediting board and their requirements and when they review and revise them.

- M. Jackson: reviewed every 5-6 years. Keep tight control over requirements. Incoming cohort will qualify for 4th or 5th edition exams.

**Recruitment**

* Number of applications to the program seems low in light of the high demand for Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) discussed on p. 5 of the proposal.
* Is a more aggressive outreach and recruitment plan needed to increase the number of qualified applicants
* - M. Mahalik: need focused sound plan for recruitment of students as part of proposal.
* - M. Wilson: Recognized demand and competition in field and acknowledged that having degree rather than option will help recruit more students.
* - M. Jackson: 100% employment rate looks good for students who do graduate and is a good recruitment number.
* - J. Marshall: Question for Dean’s Office. Can it be sustained?
* - A. Hasson: Strong program with demand, but difficult to answer question about hiring more faculty. 2 hires this year for whole college. Should we lose another, hiring would be a big priority.
* - M. Jackson: funding available to bring in lecturers, part-timers, etc.
* - J. Marshall: How many students are from Fresno State and how does recruitment plan focus on this?
* - M. Jackson: Focus on recruiting more Fresno State students. Students present at a lot of conferences.
* **Accepted and Admits:** Acceptance rate appears to be low - due to a highly selective admission process? faculty workload issues? or other reasons? Is there an admission rubric? **Enrolled compared to admits? Number admited this fall?**
* T. Lopez: below 20% placement rate. Reasons for this?
  + M. Jackson: Stable faculty now will make a big difference now to help redistribute students from larger labs to smaller groups with new faculty. More delays in transition. Now committed to taking around 12 students per semester now. Incoming cohort will be admitted under mentorship model, start working on thesis in the Fall and help get students graduated in a timely manner.
* T. Lopez: are students cohorted?
  + M. Jackson: yes, students are admitted in cohorts, largely because of demands of certification. M. Wilson asked how many accepted this Fall of 11 offered. Dr. Jackson: 7 admitted for Fall.
* Dr. Marshall: how many do you expect to graduate in 2 years.
  + M. Jackson: we had a bigger group with 11 graduations. Expect 8-12 graduating every year.

**Faculty**:

- M. Wilson: You list 5 faculty but there only seems to be 3.

- M. Jackson: explained how some faculty listed did Guest Lectures and served on Thesis Committees. Loss of faculty caused challenges at various levels.

**Viability of the program:**

Assuming the option is elevated to a degree, they will need to demonstrate the viability of their program and/or act to make their program more viable before their next program review. Discussion focused on ways to help the proposal for elevation be successful beyond level of UGC committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, Oct 23, 2018, at 2:00 pm in TA 117.

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2018, meeting  
2. Approval of Agenda

3. Communications and Announcements

4. Vote on ABA Elevation

5. Meeting with representative for Math Degree Change Proposal