

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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Fresno, California 93740-8014  
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

October 24, 2023

Members Present: M. López (Chair), M. Crawford, L. Diala, A. Hoskins, D. Lent, N. Mahalik

Members Absent: S. Hernandez, J. Goto (ex officio)

Guests: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Chair López.

- I. MSC to approve the minutes from October 10, 2023
- II. MSC to approve the agenda for October 24, 2023
- III. Communication and Announcements
  - A. M. López – APM 206. M. Lopez met with AP&P chair, Nichole Walsh, and was read in. Ad-hoc committee to revisit and revise this APM will be convened once a student rep has been identified.
  - B. M. López – APM 311. TA waivers discussion moved to personnel committee and at that time inquiries about the FAFSA requirement were made. After reviewing the history, it was unclear where this requirement came from. There is no recorded history of this discussion and why it was included. The memo to change 311, along with the amended policy, have been sent to Senate.
  - C. M. López – APM 218 / re: MSC from 10/10. This policy does not need to be renumbered as 200-level policies cover both undergrad and graduate students. Since this APM was already on the Senate floor a memo was not appropriate. D. Lent provided a friendly amendment to change the policy as approved by the UGC, and it was accepted by Senate.
  - D. A. Hoskins inquired about the policy on blended BS+MS programs. M. López will follow up with J. Goto.
- IV. MA in Reading
  - A. During the process of option elevation, it was noticed that this program was made a stand-alone 10 years ago, but change was not actually

implemented. The request is to align their documentation to what was approved then.

1. M. López noted minor language issues that she will suggest being changed in the course catalog. She will also request that they update their course catalog to address impending changes coming from DRGS.
2. MSC to approve catalog change for MA in Reading

#### V. Preliminary Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) Discussion

- M. López provided background on a recent issue around a student's IS master's degree. The student was not able to pursue the proposed curriculum because one of the Departments involved did not allow the student to enroll in the planned courses. It became clear that this Department was not properly consulted during the process of approval of the program.
  1. M. Crawford mentioned that some programs would have no space for IS masters students because of their cohort structures or other limitations. Others identified several such programs where this would be a problem.
- M. López supports the need for these programs for unique students whose interests are truly interdisciplinary and who cannot pursue their education under a current graduate degree offering.
- N. Mahalik asked who manages students in the IS Masters program.
  1. M. López noted that the DRGS serves as the clerical coordinator of these degrees, but most of the responsibility lies with the mentor of the student.
    - a) We should look at updating the language in the application to provide the chair with details of what being part of this program entails and their specific responsibilities.
    - b) The possible reinstatement of the Associate Dean position in DRGS may help with oversight of these programs.
- M. López mentioned that there are issues around the number of required faculty making up the committee for this program (currently 4-5).
  1. A. Hoskins brought up the issue of potentially spreading across too many departments would result in students only superficially being educated in any one area.
- N. Mahalik questioned the current 3.0 GPA requirement.
  1. M. López also discussed that the GPA requirement may act as a filter to ensure quality.

- M. López mentioned we might investigate expanding this to provide a way to pilot new graduate programs.
- M. López mentioned that most students change programs to the IS Masters once realizing their current program is not a good fit.
- N. Mahalik suggested that we add the IS program choice to the list of options when students apply as secondary or tertiary options.
- There was discussion about pursuing two master's degrees at the same time. The IS option does not lead to two master's degrees.

MSC to adjourn at 2:46 p.m.

The next meeting of the University Graduate Committee will be at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31 in TA 117.

#### Agenda for Tuesday, October 31, 2023

- I. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2023
- II. Approval of agenda for October 31, 2023
- III. Communications and Announcements
- IV. Catalog Change Request: MS in Athletic Training
- V. Catalog Change Request: Kinesiology GRE
- VI. Interdisciplinary Studies MA/MS