

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
5200 N. Barton Ave M/S UL34  
Fresno, California 93740-8014  
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

February 6, 2024

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

Members Excused: M. Crawford, J. Goto (ex officio)

Guests: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Chair López.

I. MSC to approve of minutes from January 30, 2024

II. MSC to approve the agenda as amended for February 6, 2024

III. Communications and Announcements

a. M. Lopez conveyed updates on Policy changes and where they stand.

i. APM 220 – Abbreviated program review, still waiting to be discussed by Senate.

ii. APM 221 – Blended programs (4+1) – Final review stage with AP&P and it is expected that it will be sent to Senate soon.

iii. APM 206 -- Blended/Online learning -- ad-hoc committee worked on the new policy last semester and will continue to do so this semester.

iv. Dean's Medalist for Graduate Students call has gone out. Deans make selections by March 15. UGC ad hoc will review Dean's medalists and rank to be considered for President's Medal.

1. Volunteer ad-hoc committee members: M. Lopez, L. Diala, N. Mahalik

IV. New Program – MS Environmental Science

a. Responses were provided by A. Mine regarding UGC questions that arose during our January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. These questions were asking for further clarifications and justification for the degree and its effect on Geology. In general, members of the UGS did not believe that the answers fully addressed some of our concerns.

- b. M. López discussed potential outstanding concerns and reiterated that by adding this new degree it will cause potential issues with their current degree offering. A. Hoskins and N. Mahalik both voiced that as written and presented, they interpreted that these two degrees were equivalent with different names.
- c. S. Hernandez was concerned that the way that these two degrees were presented could cause potential student confusion.
- d. Group discussed what role the UGC plays in holding up this request for potential issues vs. highlighting them but approve and let them deal with the fallout. Is it in line with policy to have two degrees with identical courses and SLOs?
- e. If we invite faculty from EES to discuss our concerns this may not be fruitful or satisfy either party unless all have a clearer understanding of any procedural/policy issues.
- f. Group discussed that two defined degrees would better serve the students and individuate the degrees. M. López discussed the possibility of returning it with advice to make the degrees clearly separate.
- g. N. Mahalik wanted to know if the ultimate goal of EES/Geology is to phase out the MS Geology option.
- h. UGC hit a roadblock in determining if this request was within guidelines and if it is role to reject such a request.
- i. M. López will reach out to the appropriate parties to determine if two MS degrees can be identical in all aspects except for name.

#### V. Program Suspension MA - Kinesiology

- a. MSC to approve suspension as it has been superseded by three new programs (elevated options).

#### VI. Interdisciplinary MA/MS program guidelines

- a. M. López identified that this program was missing SLOs. M. Lopez provided draft SLO language. It was discussed by UGC whether this new language may require each chair to draft specific SLOs for each student/program. This led to additional discussion on SOAPs. We were left with the question of do we make these SLOs general, or should we require tailored SLOs? More general SLOs allows for assessment. M. López will investigate this and see how we might align with best practice and what other CSUs implement.
- b. D. Lent asked who evaluates and assesses the interdisciplinary MA/MS program to determine the SLOs efficacy. M. Lopez mentioned that there have not been any students in the recent past and does not know if this program has ever been evaluated.

- c. M. López also provided new draft language for applications procedures.
- d. M. López provided new language that removed a hard GPA requirement and changed the language to give the sponsoring program flexibility to determine the requirements. D. Lent requested that we include language that other impacted Departments/Programs be consulted to ensure requirements are met.
- e. M. Lopez asks that each member of UGC review and comment asynchronously on the working draft document by Thursday 2/8/24 so that we can bring J. Goto a near final draft by our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

The next meeting of the University Graduate Committee will be at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13 in TA 117.

#### Meeting Agenda for February 13, 2024

- I. Approval of minutes from February 6, 2024
- II. Approval of agenda for February 13, 2024
- III. Communications and announcements
- IV. Interdisciplinary MA/MS
- V. New Program - MS Environmental Sciences
- VI. Option Elevation - MS Mechanical Engineering
- VII. Catalog Change - MS Food & Nutritional Sciences
- VIII. Program Conversion - MA Early Childhood Education