

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
5241 N. Maple, M/S TA43
Fresno, CA 93740-8027
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

September 1, 2015

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), R. Raeisi, P. Trueblood, D. Vera, S. Tracz, T. Skeen, A. Nambiar, M. Lopez

Members Absent: J. Marshall (excused)

Guests: Aide Navarro, Program Review

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 2:00 p.m. in TA #117

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the minutes of May 5, 2015.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.
The name change memos for Rehabilitation Counseling and Animal Science have been sent to the Executive Committee.
T. Lopez reported on Grad Net Initiative.
APM 311 was distributed for review at our next meeting.
4. A. Navarro provided the committee with a list of graduate programs that are in the Program Review pipeline and noted which ones should be ready for review by the UGC this fall. The status of the M.A. in Art Program Review was clarified and a copy of the UGC memo sent to A. Navarro.
5. The committee then discussed the University Graduate Orientation and the New Student Convocation. It was agreed that the Graduate Orientation, although compressed due to the scheduling of the New Student Convocation, was excellent and well attended. The program was brisk, entertaining, and full of information on resources for graduate students, including the Graduate Writing Studio and Grad Net. Suggestions were offered on ways to recognize the vast array of graduate programs available at Fresno State in a time-efficient manner.

Those who had attended the New Student Convocation thought it was well done, but not particularly relevant for graduate students. Many of the presentations seemed more appropriate for beginning undergraduates. In addition, the timing of the Graduate Orientation and the Convocation were concerning. In the past the Graduate Orientation has been late afternoon to accommodate working students, who constitute a large portion of our graduate students, especially in Education. Moving this to early afternoon precluded their attendance. While the University Orientation materials were disseminated electronically, this may not be as compelling as attending in person. There was little, if any, recognition of graduate students or programs at the Convocation and the Graduate Dean did not speak.

We debated whether it would be possible to incorporate more information pertinent to graduate students into the convocation and concluded that the needs of graduate students are quite different; therefore it would be better to have a separate event specifically for graduate students. Possible ideas were scheduling the University Orientation in late afternoon or evening to accommodate more students, expanding the University Graduate Orientation to include more presentations and booths by services on campus, as was done in the past, posters by programs, and a more upscale reception for graduate students following the University Orientation. These ideas will be shared with Dean Marshall and the staff in the Division of Graduate Studies.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 8/01/15
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. UGC input on APM 311: TA Policy
5. Discussion of the future for Graduate Research Symposium