

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
5200 N. Maple, M/S ML 34
Fresno, California 93740-8014
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

April 5, 2016

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshal, R. Raeisi, P. Trueblood,
M. Lopez, D. Vera, T. Skeen, A. Nambiar, Kaitlyn Sims
(student)

Members Absent: S. Tracz (Excused)

Guests: none

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 March 29, 2016
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.

J. Marshall:

- a) Grad Coordinator reception tomorrow at 3 pm in Vintage Room; have 2 Grad Coordinator meetings per semester. This one is 'happy hour' with wine and cheese; Speaker is Janelle Gilbert from Kinesiology on Recruitment; UGC is always welcome in addition to Grad Coordinators.
- b) Grad Research Symposium May 5th 1 pm to 8 pm; working out schedule; primarily poster sessions with some oral sessions from 1-4 pm; at 4 pm will shift to "3 min" presentations (select group of students); goal is to convey research to novel audience; 1 slide/student (4 to 5 pm); will have audience participation and 3 formal judges with feedback and awards will be presented; reception at 5 pm with Provost; 6-8 pm doctoral oral presentations in standard 15 min time slots; If interested in being judge please let Jim know, even if only short period of time. Want more judges this year; had 125 applications
- c) August 19, 2016 is Grad Student Orientation 1-2:45 pm Satellite Student Union, immediately before New Student Convocation (i.e., walk over to SaveMart Center at 2:45); graduate students included in New Student Convocation

4. Recommendation for M.S. in Biology

Strengths:

- a) Responsiveness – department has already implemented many of the Program Review recommendations
- b) Have been working on improving graduation rate
- c) Trying to improve Graduate Student Culture with mixer/social events
- d) Working on training TA's; now have a class
- e) Program has a good size, i.e., 40-50 graduate students
- f) Strong faculty and student research
- g) Graduates going on to good employment or PhD programs
- h) SOAP data available; good measures;
- i) Strong university and community service from faculty; noted numerous committees at all levels
- j) Have updated website
- k) Advocated for Fee Waiver for TA's
- l) Overall strong program

Weaknesses:

- a) Need revised recruitment plan
- b) Still working on improving SOAP; needs better alignment with courses
- c) Work load: Masters in Biotechnology program 'takes' faculty away from MS in Biology

Committee recommends the M.S. in Biology as a "Program of Quality and Promise".

5. Discussion regarding program review for MS in Geology. Program and College representatives will meet with UGC next week.
6. MSC: to adjourn at 2:40 pm

The next scheduled meeting for the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, April 12, 2015 at 2 pm in TA 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 4/5/16.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements
Appointments to Graduate Curriculum Subcommittee
4. Program Review for M.S. in Geology