

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

March 29, 2016

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall, R. Raeisi, P. Trueblood,
M. Lopez, D. Vera, T. Skeen

Members Excused: A. Nambiar, S. Tracz

Guests: J. Bush, R. Dundas, A. Lawson, B. Tsukimura

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. in TA 117

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2016
2. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda
3. Communications and Announcements: Reminders—April 6 Coordinators' meeting and May 5 graduate student symposium
4. Program Review of M.S. in Biology: The guests discussed with the committee their program review. Historically, they have approximately 40-50 students in the program. Time to graduation is 2 1/2 to 3 years. About 80% of their students were undergraduates at Fresno State, 10% come from other U.S. universities, and 10% are international students. The department currently has 20 full-time faculty, with several recent hires, and 10 adjuncts. Issues noted in the Program Review include the following: an on-going limited lab space and equipment maintenance; lack of a graduate student culture which engenders a sense of isolation among the students and faculty; fluctuating number of research faculty with labs which makes it difficult to predict the future size of the program; and the commitments from faculty to the M.S. in Biotech which detracts time to devote to the M.S. Biology program. The Biology Department has engaged in significant steps to address these issues since the Program Review in 2013. The Biology faculty is instituting the following: mentoring improvements in order to increase graduation rates; social events to enhance a feeling of graduate culture; streamlining of courses and the implementation of a curricular roadmap; updating the website for information and recruitment; and on-going the restructuring of the SOAP.
5. MSC to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, April 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 3/29/16
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Discussion/Recommendations for the M.S. in Biology
5. Preparation for the Program Review of M.S. in Geology