

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
5241 N. Maple, M/S TA 43  
Fresno, California 93740-8027  
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

December 1, 2015

Members Present: J. Marshall, M. Lopez, D. Vera, T. Skeen (acting Chair),  
A. Nambiar, S. Tracz

Members Absent: M. Wilson (Chair) (excused),  
R. Raeisi (excused), P. Trueblood (excused)

Guests: B. Berrett, Erin Uribe Ruiz

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Skeen at 2:04 p.m. in TA #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the minutes of November 10, 2015
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.

Dr. Marshall said his office will be sending emails to graduate coordinators with information on the Graduate Education Awareness and Recognition week. This event will be taking place in February.

In regards to the TA waiver, Dr. Marshall said that his office will determine the number of eligible TAs, to allocate funds for the Spring semester for each college. Due to timing, the Spring semester TA waiver will be implemented as a reimbursement.

4. MFA Degree in Creative Writing - Option Proposal  
Dr. Skeen provided the committee with some language changes to add to the catalog. Dr. Marshall mentioned that the change will impact all the graduate programs in English, and the language change will be a separate procedure.

Dr. Skeen presented the Option Proposal on editing and literary writing. Dr. Skeen mentioned how in their survey they ask students how to strengthen their program. Students have mentioned more support on publishing as a top recommendation (source: self study).

Dr. Tracz asked if students were interested on how to become editors. Dr. Skeen assented and added that the idea behind the new option is to officially recognize the editorial work students are already doing at Fresno State. Dr. Skeen also mentioned several recent graduates have been placed at high-end publishers.

Dr. Marshall mentioned the literary editing and publishing option will not appear in students' diploma, but it will be reflected in their transcripts. Dr. Skeen noted that they are not adding new requirements, but are substituting classes. Dr. Marshall pointed out that the thesis requirement does not change.

MSC to approve the MFA Degree in Creative Writing - Option Proposal on first reading – waive second reading.

5. Interdisciplinary Studies Master's Proposal.

Dr. Lopez asked about the practical emphasis of the proposal: interpretation M.A., instead of research based M.A. Dr. Lopez argued that the course work seems to be preparing the student (Miss Uribe) to become a legal interpreter, and there is a disconnect with the culminating experience. Miss Uribe clarified aspects of culminating experience. Miss Uribe pointed out that the culminating experience will be qualitative research based on interviews with the interpreters. According to Miss Uribe, the courses provide the foundation for the research.

Dr. Berrett mentioned that to become a legally certified interpreter is rather a rigorous process. He also mentioned that for the qualitative study (culminating experience) he envisioned interviews with all stakeholders, not only interpreters.

Dr. Lopez asked about the number of transfer classes in the proposal. Only three courses should be considered for transfer. Miss Uribe clarified that only three courses will be transferred.

Dr. Marshall confirmed with Miss Uribe that she will be taking the GRE in December.

Miss Uribe pointed out that there is no model of M.A. in legal interpretation with research as main focus. She also mentioned that the

few MAs in the field mainly target people interested in careers in teaching.

Miss Uribe argued that her ultimate goal is to complete a Ph.D. in interpretation and the Interdisciplinary Studies M.A. will help her accomplish this goal.

MSC to approve the Interdisciplinary Studies Master's Proposal.

6. MSC: to adjourn at 2:55 pm

The next scheduled meeting for the Graduate Committee will be January 26, 2016 at 2 pm in TA 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 12/01/15.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. Planning for Program Review – MA in Music