

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

May 3, 2016

PRESENT: M. WILSON (Chair), J.E. MARSHALL, A. NAMBIAR, D. VERA,  
P. TRUEBLOOD, S. TRACZ, T. SKEEN, M. LOPEZ, K. SIMS  
(ASI)

ABSENT: R. RAEISI (excused)

VISITORS: Dean Paul Beare, Dr. Jacques Benniga, Dr. Laura Alamillo,  
Dr. Mariya Yukhymenko

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 2:01 p.m. in TA #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the minutes of April 12, 2016.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
  - A. Chair Wilson shared that two new committee members have been elected. The first is Larry Riley, from the Biology Department, who will replace her as representative for the College of Science and Mathematics. The second new member is Nitaigour (Prim) Mahalik, from the Industrial Technology Department, who will replace Arun Nambiar as representative for the Jordan College of Agriculture.
  - B. Dean Marshall reminded members that the Graduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium will take place this Thursday May 5, 1:00-8:00.
  - C. Chair Wilson reminded members that the University Graduate Committee's end-of-year get-together is scheduled for Friday May 6, 6:00-8:00.
  - D. Dean Marshall informed the committee that the Lyles College of Engineering is spearheading a request to revisit the current policy regarding the offering of 298C and 299C at reduced cost through CGS during the summer intersession. Deans from all colleges have agreed to back the request, which will be submitted and come to the UGC for consideration next semester.

- E. Chair Wilson noted the review of the Linguistics graduate program is on the docket for early next semester. Review materials will be forthcoming.
- F. MSC to appoint Dr. Holianne Marshall, from the Department of Criminology, representing the College of Social Sciences, to the Graduate Curriculum Subcommittee.
- G. MSC to appoint Dr. Hwan Youn, from the Department of Biology, representing the College of Science and Mathematics, to the Graduate Curriculum Subcommittee.

5. Discussion of Proposed Certificate of Advanced Study in Research Methods

Chair Wilson started the discussion by requesting that guests introduced themselves. Dr. Susan Tracz then offered background information on the proposed plan. She highlighted that students in the various postbaccalaureate and graduate programs in the Kremen School have demonstrated interest on acquiring knowledge and skill with advanced research methods. They completed a needs assessment survey of 110 students (in only 5 classes). 72% of respondents signaled an interest in acquiring advanced research skills beyond those currently offered, 14.5% want to attend a doctoral program in the immediate future, and 9% are extremely interested in a Certificate of Advanced Study such as the one proposed. These data indicate there is a mass of students to recruit. Further, the Kremen School had in the past a five-year grant program focused on offering such courses, which were well attended. Based on this success, they looked into creating an option within one of the existing MA programs, but ultimately decided to develop the proposed CAS instead. The purpose of this advanced certificate is to build research infrastructure within Fresno State to 1) train students to do advanced research, and 2) to better prepare MA students who wish to pursue a doctoral degree.

As outlined in the proposal, the program will consist of 15 units, including three existing courses and two new courses. Of the required courses, only one, ERE 220, could double-count for MA and CAS. The two new courses are 1) a course focused on advanced qualitative research skills, and 2) a course on advanced regression topics, including multi-level modeling, and others with clear applications in education. Admission requirements will be the same as for current Kremen MA degrees, that is, a minimum 2.5 GPA in the last 60 units and a required

preliminary advising meeting. Dean Marshall inquired whether the GRE is required. Dr. Tracz explained that no, as years ago program coordinators across Kremen voted to do away with that requirement. Chair Wilson asked for further clarification regarding admission requirements. As per Dr. Tracz, these requirements will be the same as those for “general” admissions for MA programs, not those specific to individual programs.

Chair Wilson asked about the target population. Dr. Tracz responded that the most likely prospects are Kremen’s own students. However, collaborations with area school districts for individual cohorts is also a likely future possibility. Dean Beare supported this, stating that districts like Firebaugh need researchers and will likely request local cohorts. Dr. Alamillo added that Kremen faculty doing their own research often require this sort of skills in assistants, which will further help with recruitment. Chair Wilson asked about the minimum number of students per cohort would make this a viable program? Dean Beare responded that a minimum of fifteen students will be required, as is the case with almost all Kremen programs. The program will be cohorted and cohorts will be planned ahead. Chair Wilson pointed to a similar MA program in Psychology, which has been very successful in collaborating with districts; recruitment for research track has not been a problem. This Psychology MA program would not compete; rather, it establishes a proven need and the proposed program’s likely success.

Discussion shifted to questions and preliminary recommendations by UGC members.

- 1) Dean Marshall asked why the two new courses, currently submitted as topics courses, have been designated as such. Drs. Wilson and López suggested that this was not necessary and would lead to further work down the road (in terms of converting them from Topic to regular courses). The catalog change request will also require an amendment to reflect the proposal of these courses as regular.
- 2) Dr. Trueblood raised a question regarding the proposed SOAP. Two issues in particular were highlighted: a) the SOAP is in its proposed form too broad and includes no rubrics. Drs. Trueblood and Wilson recommended amending this part of the proposal to focus on fewer individual assessments, with each more clearly developed and supported; b) the Human Subjects Certification should not count for assessment, as it is not a program measurement.
- 3) The section on target audience should be clarified to reflect the points discussed above.

MSC to approve first reading with above suggestions included. A second reading of the proposal is to be scheduled for next semester following approval of the new courses by the Graduate Curriculum Subcommittee.

6. Discussion of selection of a new UGC chair. None of the current members are easily available for release/buy out. Chair Wilson will discuss this with Kevin Ayotte, chair of the Academic Senate.
7. MSC to adjourn at 2:53 pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Graduate Committee is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 5/3/2016
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Formal election of UGC Chair for 2016-2017
5. Planning for 2016-2017
  - a. Schedule M.A. in Linguistics Program Review
  - b. Schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for Certificate in Advanced Research Methods
  - c. New business