

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

April 4, 2017

Members Present: T. Skeen (Chair), J. Marshall, S. Tracz, N. Mahalik, M. Wilson, R. Raeisi

Members Excused: M. Lopez, P. Trueblood

Guests: N/A

Chair Skeen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117

I. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of March 21, 2017

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda as amended to include Item 5. Reappointments to the Graduate Curriculum Subcommittee and Item 6. Discussion of the DRGS Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

III. Communications and Announcements:

- a. Dean Marshall communicated that the 2017 Annual Central California Research Symposium (CCRS) is on Tuesday, April 18, and Wednesday, April 19, and will be in the University Business Center (UBC). Undergraduates, graduates, some faculty members, and representatives from UC San Francisco and UC Merced are participating and presenting their research works both orally and in poster format. Review of Abstracts has already been finished. Electronic schedule will be available soon. This year, six students (usually ten in the past) will participate in the state level CSU-wide competitions at SLO.
- b. Dean Marshall announced that the Graduate Faculty/Student Mixer is on Thursday, April 20 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Smittcamp Alumni House. The event celebrates to recognize the work of graduate students. Graduate Coordinators, Dean of Division of Research and Graduate Studies, and Provost will be present. Dean Marshall invited the members of UGC Committee.

IV. Continued discussion of Physics M.S.

Members continued discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the Physics M.S. program. Members reviewed the materials

presented in the self-study and team-visit reports and noted some more commendations and concerns, and listed some questions to be asked to the visitors.

Commendations:

- Members appreciated students' involvement in research at CERN and the future effort for attracting the external funding.
- External grant and contract activities are strong. Members noticed that the department applies funding for the tuition waivers and provides TAs and scholarships to the potential graduate students. There was no mention of the source of funding. Possible sources could be from the external grants and contracts. The self-study reports a list of grants and contract activities and funding totaling up to about two million dollars received by the faculty from various sources.

Concerns:

- Recruitment: Members identified that the program has low enrollment despite the fact that the enrollment has increased about 20% in comparison to college enrollment. However, the numbers are still low. Although there is no limit of lower end enrollment, the members posed concerns whether the program really has a recruitment plan. The members did not find the evidence of a clear recruitment plan.
- Assessment: Members reviewed the Annual Assessment Report. The entire assessment includes only two tables listed with assessment data gathered through two of the courses, Phys 299 and Phys 290. Members did not find the evidence of a strong assessment plan.
- Graduate Writing Requirement: The M.S. Physics program uses the final report submitted by the students for the course Phys 290 (Independent Study) in order to satisfy Graduate Writing Requirement for advancement to candidacy. Also, the advancement to candidacy requires GRE scores. The members felt that the GRE exam seems expensive for the students.
- Alumni Survey: Data on Alumni Survey are not available in the report.

Recommendations:

Chair Skeen will contact the Physics Department for a time-certain, tentatively scheduled on April 25. Along with other questions, as discussed in the previous UGC meeting on March 21, the members will ask the questions around the points listed below to the visitors. The recommendations will follow after the committee meets the visitors.

- (a) The Assessment and Recruitment Plans.
- (b) Alumni Survey
- (c) Explanation on the non-collegiality issue reported by the Visiting Review Panel/Team.

V. Nomination for Graduate Curriculum Sub-committee.

Members voted to reappoint Dr. Balaji Sethuramasamyraja (JCAST) and Dr. Fayzul Pasha (LCE) to the Graduate Curriculum Sub-committee.

VI. Review of Division of Research and Graduate Studies Strategic Plan.

Dean Marshall distributed the draft version of the Division of Research and Graduate Studies Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to the Committee members for review. Dean Marshall started the discussion by highlighting the Mission Statement, Goals (Student Success, Research, Innovation, and Community Outreach and Engagement), and Objectives cited in the draft Plan. He is primarily seeking input, suggestions and feedback from the members on this draft version of the Strategic Plan 2017-2021. The input could be conceptual in nature or disparities in the objective vs. activity/metrics. Members briefly discussed the Plan including the clarification on matching university growth figures. The draft Plan will be revisited and inputs will be sought from the members in the next UGC meeting.

MSC to adjourn at 3:06 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda

1. Approval of the 4/4/17 Minutes
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Appoint Kammi Sayaseng (HHS) to the GCS
5. Continue Review of Division of Research and Graduate Studies Strategic Plan 2017-2021
6. Discussion of Certificate of Advanced Study in Research Methods