

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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Fresno, California 93740-8027  
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

October 3rd, 2017

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall, S. Church, M. Lopez, N. Mahalik, S. Tracz, N. Wang

Members Excused: S. Church

Guests: Dr. K. Reid-Bevington, Dr. J. Bushoven, Dr. S. Benes, from Plant Science

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

I. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of September 26, 2017.

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda

III. Communications and Announcements

Dr. Marshall reported the discussion of GS 299C 0-unit continuation policy with the Provost. The UGC members briefly talked about the issues and made some suggestions. The members all agreed to spend more time later to discuss it.

IV. Program Review with Representatives from Plant Science: Time Certain 2:20 pm.

The UGC reviewed the materials submitted for the review of the M.S. in Plant Science, including the Self Study, Team Report, and responses by the Department and Dean. The associate dean, Dr. Reid-Bevington, the chair, Dr. Bush, and the coordinator, Dr. Benes, were invited as representatives of the Plant Science program to the UGS meeting to clarify some of concerns the UGC members had.

- First, the guest representatives told the UGC committee they don't have any updates on their submitted materials as the Department and Dean responses were submitted last spring.
- Dr. Wilson asked if they need to hire more faculty. Dr. Benes said they hired one recently, are searching for one more, and may need more in near future. She also mentioned there are about 17-22 graduate students in the program and they tried to link each student to a faculty member on their research

projects. They care more about the quality of the graduate program, rather than the quantity of students.

- Dr. Mahalik asked about the placement of their graduates. Dr. Benes mentioned some of the graduates found jobs locally and some went to Ph.D. programs at UCs or other universities.
- Dr. Mahalik asked about the usage of the greenhouse. He noted the Site Team report mentioned some outsiders are using it. Dr. Bush responded the “outsiders” are actually from the Ag Foundation. They planted fruit and crops in the greenhouse. Dr. Benes stated the greenhouse lost its temperature control and is in bad shape. They may need to build smaller green houses for experiments.
- Dr. Lopez asked about the use of the space in the new Jordan building. Dr. Benes and Dr. Bush said there are offices, labs and rooms for faculty and graduate students. Some share a room, and others have their own cubical. They carry out their research there. Dr. Benes also mentioned more scholarship funds are needed to help their recruitment and to support the research projects.
- Both Dr. Benes and Bush told the committee that the quality of the out of state and international students is a little higher than the local students but they value both groups of students as the local students typically remain and become community resources. They have international students mainly from India and Brazil with others from Jordan, Columbia, and Mexico, while a few are from Nepal and China. Dr. Bush said they do have some 1-2-1 undergraduate students and few exchange scholars from China. Dr. Lopez recommended the conditional admitted students can receive consultation from staff in Graduate Writing Studio. They will help the students improve their GRE and their English.
- Dr. Wilson mentioned the SOAP on the website for Plant Science graduate program hasn't been updated since 2011. Dr. Benes said the last time they upgraded is in October 2016, and they will send us the latest version.
- By the end, Dr. Bush said their program is thesis-driven; a key SOAP activity is evaluation of proposal presentations. The faculty is stretched to teach the growing undergraduate student

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body and carry out research. A couple of faculty will be retiring so they may need to hire more faculty in the near future.

V. MSC to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

Agenda

1. Approval of the October 3, 2017 Minutes
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Discussion of recommendations for M.S. in Plant Science
5. Preparation for program review with M.A. in Spanish.