

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

September 20, 2016

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

Members Absent: P. Trueblood (excused), S. Tracz (excused)

Guests: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Chair Skeen at 2:06 p.m. in TA #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the minutes of September 13, 2016 as amended.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.
  - a) Dean Marshall reminded members that the Graduate Coordinator breakfast is tomorrow, September 21 at 8 a.m. in the Vintage Room.
4. Program Review Discussion: M.A. in Linguistics

Members discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the Linguistics program. Commendations, concerns, and recommendations were as follows:

For commendations, members highlighted:

- The high quality of the program's faculty, including their impressive scholarship and publication record.
- The also notable number and quality of student research and publications.
- The department's clear and extensive engagement with the community, particularly their work in preserving Native American languages.

As concerns, members noted:

- Although additional information was requested from the program regarding their 2011-2016 SOAP – especially regarding their assessment tools (including rubrics), whether assessments had been completed, and details on data/results – there is evidence of

neither the implementation of the graduate SOAP nor of any discussion or plan of action based on assessment results.

Committee members noted this is a serious concern that must be remedied immediately.

- The precipitous drop in enrollment, from 50-60 students to approximately half. Committee members are concerned about the continued viability of the program should the drop continue, particularly in terms of ability to argue for additional faculty to offer sufficient courses for timely degree completion.

Recommendations are as follows:

- The program leadership should work in close connection with the university-wide Director of Assessment, Dr. Melissa Jordine, to revamp and implement their SOAP, and to develop a plan of action based on data gathered from those assessments.
- The program's coordinator should consider working with both the Division of Research and Graduate Studies and the Graduate Net Initiative to develop and implement as soon as possible an outreach/recruitment plan.

MSC to Approve as a Program of Quality and Promise, with the implementation of the above noted recommendations as required with substantial improvements.

5. MSC to adjourn at 2:38 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting for the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, September 27, 2016.

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. M.A. in Public Administration