

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 25, 2017

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

Members Excused: P. Trueblood

Guests: Robert Dundas, Interim Chair of Science and
Mathematics; Amir Huda, Chair of the Physics
Department; Gerardo Munoz, Graduate
Coordinator for the Physics Master's Program

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

I. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of April 18, 2017

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda

III. Communications and Announcements

- Dean Marshall reminded members that the next Graduate Coordinators' meeting will take place on Thursday, April 27, 3:00-5:00 in the Vintage Room.

IV. Program Review: Physics

- Chair Skeen welcomed the guests and everyone was asked to introduce themselves.
- Chair Skeen opened the discussion by commending the Physics department for their research and involvement, as well as for the student program which takes students to the CERN particle physics laboratory in Switzerland. Dr. Munoz gave credit to Dr. Yongsheng Gao, who runs the program.
- Chair Skeen continued the conversation by asking about the program's assessment plan and activities, which site reviewers highlighted as a point of concern. Dr. Munoz clarified that faculty do assess every individual thesis and project, following a common rubric. This exercise takes most of the assessment time, however, so no assessment outside of tests and course grades is done at the course level. The program has moved to utilizing national exams such as the subject GRE to measure student learning outcomes.
- Dean Marshall inquired about the program's desire and plans for

- growth in terms of enrollment, especially from students outside of the department's own baccalaureate program, from which most master's level students currently are recruited. Dr. Munoz noted that this is desirable, but efforts have been constrained due to lack of funds. The most effective practice so far has been the targeting of other CSUs with no postbaccalaureate physics program, sending program faculty to staff tables at graduate events at those institutions. Even here, however, limited funds are problematic, disallowing more than one or two such trips a year. Dean Marshall suggested the program participate in the first annual CSU-wide virtual graduate fair, in which the Division of Research and Graduate Studies will participate. Dr. Lopez suggested that, in preparation for the virtual fair, Dr. Munoz should work with the Graduate Net Initiative to update and develop outreach materials.
- Regarding program enrollment, Dr. Mahalik inquired about international recruitment and admissions. Dr. Munoz noted that, although the program does receive a number of international applications, they are often not accepted at the university level because applicants already hold a master's degree. Further, as the greatest interest seems to come from students in countries that do not defray educational costs, many of these applicants end up enrolling at other universities with better financial aid and work opportunities. Dean Marshall suggested that the program consider applying for an International Non-Resident fee waiver if ever they have a really promising student they want to recruit. This waiver offsets the difference between in-state and international fees.
 - Dr. Raeisi inquired about the gender issues among faculty noted by the site review team. Dr. Huda noted that the department has experienced some problems with bullying among faculty, some unrelated to gender. The department is currently working on developing and implementing a series of "rules of engagement" by which faculty differences and disagreements may be better approached. Interim Dean Dundas added that the issue has been brought to the attention of the Human Resources office, which is currently assisting the program.
 - The guest left at 3:06.

V. MSC to adjourn at 3:11 p.m.

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

Agenda

1. Approval of the April 25 Minutes
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Communications and Announcements
4. Discussion of Physics M.S. Program Review
5. Discussion of Certificate of Advanced Study in
Research Methods
6. Election of Chair