

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

Nov. 7, 2017

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

Guests: Dr. K Cline from MPA Program, Dr. B. Muscat,
Assoc. Dean, Dr. M. Denbeste, Dean Social
Sciences

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

I. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of October 31, 2017

a) Suggestions will be emailed – minor typos

II. Agenda: MSC to approve the agenda.

III. Communications and Announcements

a) J. Marshall—same as last time

b) M. Wilson – Comp Science review on Nov. 28th, Communications PR at
end of January

i) Also discussed “elevated options” review for Deaf Education and
Speech Language Pathology -- “elevated” explained by J. Marshall via
Chancellor’s Directive, at least 50% of core must be shared –
proposing to elevate options to full degree status. UGC will review
because it’s for new degrees. Our role is to approve concept and offer
comments on content, send to Senate Exec with approval or
disapproval. M. Wilson requested date to schedule reviews. Proposed
1st week of February. Agreement from committee.

IV). M. Wilson welcomes guests from MPA program at 2:15. MPA program
faculty came to discuss their program review.

The questions and issues which the University Graduate Committee asked:

- M. Lopez: The MPA peaked enrollment in 2009 but only admitted 4 students for next year. It takes around 2.5 years to graduate. Why is there such declining enrollment? What is their recruitment plan for the future?
 - K. Cline: nationwide enrollment is down. Plans to go to counties, councils of governments, city level, etc. Also have some more “vague” plans for community service, nonprofit side. Kurt plans to work more full-time on recruitment
 - Follow up questions about recruitment challenges and dips in enrollment.
 - Competing with MBA and online universities and other degree programs locally, regionally, and nationally.
 - Cutting rates for reimbursement, cutting budgets in cities causes challenges.
 - Follow up question about taking advantage of recruitment mini-grants
 - M. Lopez encouraged Dr. Cline to work with Grad Net Initiative in creation of plan for recruitment
 - M. Wilson: Any off-campus cohorts?
 - K. Cline: Some collaboration with Visalia campus, Fresno County a couple of times. Recruiting now for Sp18 off-campus cohort. More from Tulare and King’s County. Off-campus program doesn’t compete with on-campus program. Other factors lower enrollment.
 - N. Mahalik : how will you graduate a minimum of 5 students
 - K. Cline: 6 or 7 in pipeline for Fall, another 6 or 7 for Spring
- N. Mahalik: The department chair and program coordinators assign courses within the 3 emphases. Is the 201 course in the program? Question regarding absence in assessment reports
 - K. Cline: Should be in report and list of SLO’s but has offered to look into it. Have not had 120G since 2009 or 2010. Attributed to clerical error. 201 is used for ATC.
- M. Wilson: Faculty is not diverse. Though they will not be hiring now due to low enrollments, what are future thoughts about getting a more diverse faculty?
 - K. Cline: some release from that expectation/requirement. NASPA has been watching diversity of faculty. MPA has to hire through Dept of Political Science and has hired Dr. Bryant, Dr. Massud, which has helped with diversity. Try to supplement with guest speakers, specialty courses, etc. Have been released by NASPA because of efforts

- J. Marshall: question about minimum # of units required by NASPA and why 36 units for MPA instead of 30. Maybe fewer units would help recruit and retain
 - K. Cline: doesn't think it is viable to reduce to 30. Not aware of a NASPA required minimum. Differentiation in electives. Some other programs require 40 or more units. Doesn't think we're losing students because of 36 unit requirement. No compelling reason to change it; actually more pressure to increase # of units. Most students are graduating in 5-6 years because many are part time
 - S. Tracz: What are specializations?
 - K. Cline: ours are a little different. Fresno State tends to be more general: State and Local Public Management and Non-Profits
 - M. Lopez: these are informal specializations, correct?
 - K. Cline: Yes, that is true.
- There are 5 universal competencies. Their SOAP seems OK. They are graduating people from their 36 unit program.
- Can their continued accreditation process to better aligned with ours in terms of timeline so we don't have to look at old data?
 - J. Marshall asked about cycle of accreditation: What is it?
 - K. Cline: 2019-20 academic year
 - J.. Marshall: may want to adjust program review to coincide with accreditation cycle to better align them. Will work with College to make that happen. UGC has looked at more recent trends that we requested. Need to get alignment better so any one committee is not at a disadvantage.
 - K. Cline: should've been updated reports from NASPA provided for this program review
 - M. Wilson: commended them on collection of data
- M. Wilson: Their Advisory Board does not seem to be involved. How can this be improved?
 - K. Cline: No current AB. Originally used to put MPA program together. Have used informal AB's to help develop program in past, particularly the Non-Profit specialization. Challenges with "political" nature of AB, some push back from faculty. Understands desire and NASPA query, but seemed to be a "wash" in terms of being helpful.

- M. Wilson shared experience working with AB in School Psych and value of input from them. Encouraged him to look into it again.

V.) M. Wilson asked for Deans' Response:

- B. Muscat, Assoc Dean of Social Sci: Program doing a good job. Good outreach, increasing diversity, good job of going out into communities of South Valley. Dr. Kline's mentoring commended as excellent.
- M. Denbeste, Dean of Social Science: Followed up from Dean's perspective on Advisory Board. Can be a good thing and help with fundraising and recruiting.
- K. Cline: will seek out support and input from Dr. Forbes and Dr. Muscat. Discussed what Dr. Forbes adds to program. Hope to bring in State and Local person to add to program
- M. Wilson: commended MPA for interdisciplinary nature of program

VI.) Some follow up discussion from UGC on responses from MPA team

VII.) M. Wilson: Next week at UGC meeting we will make recommendations and look at Computer Science documents for program review.

VIII.) M. Lopez asked about "Holiday" plans for UGC. Proposed Friday, Dec. 8 or one of first days of exams, Weds. 12/13 at Mad Duck.

IX.) M. Wilson: Motion to adjourn at 3:57

X.) Agenda for 11/14

- Approval of minutes
- Approval of agenda
- Communications and Announcements
- Recommendations for MPA Program
- Preliminary discussion of Program review of M.S. in Computer Science