

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

February 6, 2018

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), J. Marshall, K. Capehart, N. Mahalik, S. Tracz, D. Walker, S. Church

Members Excused: N. Wang

Guests: S. Skelton

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by M. Wilson

1. Approval of Minutes from 1/30/18
2. Approval of agenda

Call for Communications and Announcements from M. Wilson:

- Discussion of awards for Outstanding Thesis and problems with monetary awards
 - o Mixer in May as Grad Student Acknowledgment Event
- NRTW apps due on Feb. 15
- Melissa Jordine will visit Coordinator's Meeting on Feb. 21 to discuss assessment rubrics
- Plagiarism review of theses

UGC Discussion of enhancement of Deaf Education to MA:

- Discussions of #'s of graduates, offering of classes, overall need for MA program
- Questions about numbers of students in program, graduates, etc.
- Why low #'s of graduates? Why admitting and only graduating small #'s
- Questions about difference between Credential and MA
 - o MA leads to provisional certification
- Discussion of old University Policy from 1971 –AP7132
 - o Performance Review of Existing Programs = only existing policy
 - Raises question about having a program with less than 5 students
 - Why should it NOT be phased out?
 - Justification related to location in California and serving regional student populations
- How long has Comm Sci MA been around, questions about original justifications

S. Skelton, Chair of CSDS.

- Discussion of proposed elevations for Deaf Education and Speech Pathology. The UGC noted that they had no questions regarding the Speech Pathology program; it is a robust program and filling a documented need.
- Main questions about Deaf Ed program were concerns about the low number of students enrolled and graduates. As an option the small numbers (admitting 6 per year and graduating 2-3 per year) was subsumed under the much larger Speech Pathology option.
 - S. Skelton: Numbers of students per course is very small, and has been consistent over period of time. The department has moved to set schedule of courses but these classes of 3,5,6 students.
 - T. Lopez: If this was a new MA Program it would be difficult to justify with such small numbers. This is also expensive in terms of faculty teaching small numbers of students.
 - J. Marshall: concerns at 2 levels:
 - 1. Exec. Senate approval – Elevations won't have to go through budget committee unless there are questions about demand; this is a flag for us and possible questions from Senate
 - 2. Chancellor's Office – There is an existing, albeit old, policy that questions degrees that produce less than 5 grads per year, The program must justify why it should be retained based on stated examples for exceptions in policy – Deaf Ed doesn't meet exceptions in most cases – Which can be used to support elevation?
 - S. Skelton: only other program is at Northridge with 22 students – in Southern California, serving needs of region – Fresno State may be only one serving Northern region. However, the program is online and not limited to this region in terms of graduates and their jobs.
 - M. Wilson: are other programs online?
 - S. Skelton: not sure, but will look into it.
 - T. Lopez: are these lower numbers part of national trend, normal within discipline – are you doing anything to recruit?
 - Skelton: Yes, the department has tried various recruitment strategies (e.g., going online and grants to support students) but hasn't been very successful in increasing numbers. It appears this is where they'll be in terms of numbers in the future.
 - Deaf Ed Faculty: Nationwide, Deaf Ed. programs are very small – going through change in response to improvements in

cochlear implants. The need is dropping due to technological developments.

- T. Lopez: should play up fact of national trends, #'s at Northridge compared to here, larger population center vs. smaller here in Valley
- S. Tracz: do you see the program being able to create courses to respond to national trends and changes in technology?
 - Skelton: There has been some consideration of separate track in past with tense discussions among faculty and the option has been flatly rejected.
- S. Skelton: if program ended, everyone might go to Northridge – would be a loss in community –
 - Should it be folded into something in Kremen?
- N. Mahalik: Question about undergraduate majors in Deaf Ed
 - Skelton: Larger numbers in undergrad than at graduate level – one big challenge is 5 levels of ASL instruction
- Suggestions for justification:
 - Skelton: “Silent Garden” and need to pull in their information
 - M. Wilson: Low incidence but critically important that kids need these services.
 - J. Marshall: Social justice issue may be good rationale for elevating program
- The UGC will send memo supporting the elevation for Speech Pathology and ask for more documentation on Deaf Education.

Discussion and Recommendations for MA in Communications:

- MSC: Recommend that MA in Communications, Program for Conditional Continuation with timeline discussed
 - Unanimously approved
- Conditions will include:
 - Updated curriculum – 2020 New course proposals, catalog copy changes, new syllabi, new road map for degree
 - Updated/aligned SOAP with curriculum (2020)
 - Graduate Writing Requirement – tied into SOAP
 - End of 3 years, Spring 2021: fully approved updated curriculum, revised graduate handbook

MSC to adjourn at 3:00 pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

1. Approval of the February 6th, 2018 minutes.
2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Communications and Announcements
4. Approval of the memo for M.A. in Communications
5. Preliminary discussion of Program Review for DPT.