

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

March 5, 2013

Members Present: M. Wilson (Chair), S. Brown-Welty, C. Fry Bohlin, M. Lopez,  
N.P. Mahalik, R. Raeisi, P. Trueblood, D. Vera

Members Excused: T. Wein

Guests: Paul Beare (Dean, Kremen School of Education and  
Human Development) and Jim Marshall (Associate  
Dean, Kremen School of Education and Human  
Development)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 2:04 p.m. in Thomas #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 2/26/2013.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.
  - a. Dean Brown-Welty announced that the Dual-Listed Course Policy has been approved at all levels. Proposals for courses to be offered starting Fall 2013 can now be submitted.
  - b. Chair Wilson announced receipt of a memo from Lynn Williams, Chair of the Academic Senate, stating that the deadline for submitting materials to the Executive Committee for consideration this semester by the Academic Senate is March 18.
  - c. Dean Brown-Welty announced an Open House for the new Graduate Center, located in room 2119 of the Henry Madden Library. The Open House will be held at 2:30 p.m. on March 18.
4. Program Review Discussion: Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (DPELFS).
  - a. Chair Wilson welcomed the guests.

- b. Chair Wilson asked the invitees to provide any update or information for the committee in addition to the program review reports that came to the university graduate committee.
- c. Dean Brown-Welty, also director of the DPELFS, offered relevant background about the review. Since the Program Review was due at the same time as the five-year WASC review of the program, materials for both were combined into a single report. The program was reviewed by a WASC team; no internal reviewers participated in the process. Program administrators and faculty found the review team's assessment (commendations and recommendations) to be fair, although there were several points of disagreement.
- d. Associate Dean Marshall offered clarification on the team's concern regarding faculty workload and the possible concurrent existence of three DPELF programs (Fresno State's stand-alone, Bakersfield's soon-to-be-stand alone, and Fresno State-Channel Islands' joint online program). The team's recommendation was based on a misunderstanding of the role of Fresno State faculty in all three DPELFS programs currently in place or under development; Dr. Marshall noted workload will diminish once the CSU Bakersfield program stands alone, which is scheduled for the 2015 AY.
- e. Dean Brown-Welty discussed another review team concern, which relates to the issue of a perceived lack of diversity among program faculty. The DPELFS is not an independent program, which means it does not hire its own faculty. Rather, reflecting the program's interdisciplinary nature, faculty members are pulled in from the Kremen School and beyond. Dean Beare added to this that the Kremen School this spring hired three new faculty members, all from diverse backgrounds. Two of these will work closely with the DPELFS.
- f. Dean Wilson asked for clarification regarding the review team's concern over the seemingly incomplete assessment of imbedded fieldwork in the DPELFS. Dean Brown-Welty explained that imbedded fieldwork is the DPELFS's signature pedagogy, placing students in real life scenarios in which they work with external clients (such as local school boards). Although an integral part of the program, assessment of its effectiveness is closely tied to the return of reviews by the external clients, many of whom fail to submit the reviews.

- g. DPELFS faculty and staff are currently working on how to improve this return rate so as to better evaluate this aspect of the program.
  - h. Dean Wilson asked for clarification on some aspects of the DPELFS's SOAP, which includes a pre- and post-disposition questionnaire. Dean Williams clarified that the questionnaire measures changes in both attitudes and practices. It also serves as an awareness raising tool, since incoming students are here introduced to some of the attitudes and best practices to be discussed throughout the program.
  - i. Dean Brown-Welty introduced the DPELFS's Center for Research and Publication, the focus of which is to facilitate, through outreach and other support structures, the publication of program students' and graduates' research.
  - j. The discussion shifted to DPELFS graduation rates. Since its first cohort, the DPELFS has achieved an average of 90% completion in three years. As an example, Dean Brown-Welty mentioned that only two of the 22 students in the current cohort are not expected to finish in three years. The high graduation rate has been due, in part, to the moving of comprehensive exams to earlier in the program, as well as to a modification in policy, which now disallows a student's preliminary and final defense taking place in the same semester. A series of three one-day dissertation seminars, in which topics such as committee composition and the development of valid research questions are covered, has also helped streamline the process to completion.
  - k. The invitees left at 2:38 p.m.
5. Program Review Policy Changes Discussion
- a. Minor changes to the language of the policy were made and/or confirmed.
  - b. MSC: to approve this version of the policy, with these minor revisions, as the UGC's final version.
6. MSC: to adjourn at 2:49 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting for the Graduate Committee is Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 2:00 pm in TA 117.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 3/5/13.
2. Approval of the Agenda of 3/12/13.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. 1<sup>st</sup> reading: Proposal for Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Option in the Civil Engineering Graduate Program, Department of Civil and Geomatics Engineering, Lyles College of Engineering.
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for Multilingual and Multicultural Option: Department of Literacy, Early, Bilingual, and Special Education (LEBSE); Kremen School of Education and Human Development.