MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
5200 N. Barton Ave M/S UL34
Fresno, California 93740-8014
Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

January 28, 2025

Members Present:	D. Lent (Chair), E. Lowham (Ex-officio), L. Diala, A. Hoskins, N. Mahalik, D. Calleros
Guest:	Alexis Holladay
Members Absent:	M. Crawford, S. Hernández

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chair D. Lent

I. MSC: Approved of the minutes for January 21, 2024
II. MSC: Approved of the agenda for January 28, 2025
III. Communication and Announcements
    A. Additional Committee members introduced themselves to Interim Dean Lowham
    B. Modality Shift Communication Concerns
        1. Dr. Lowham followed up on this: Goal is to get current programs approved via Academic Senate as soon as possible, while a new interim policy for review is created alongside AP&P Chair Walsh
    C. L. Diala asked about enrollment numbers by college, in an effort to understand the context surrounding the cancellation of courses for MBA. One of the courses that was cancelled had large enrollment in the fall, which was abnormal (normally it is even across semesters)
        1. Dean Lowham will get these numbers to the committee by college, and did note that enrollment overall is down for graduate students.
IV. Chemistry MS - Program Review
    A. Graduation Rates are looking good, no issues
    B. Highlights from committee
        1. A. Hoskins brought up issues of safety, and lack of lab space for faculty. This was corroborated by a letter from the visiting guests. Hoped that this information would get to those who can provide support
        2. D. Lent mentioned ADA compliance and the fact that the labs are not in compliance, and fixing this would be a larger undertaking.
            a) Dean Lowhman noted that this would be an official notice to Fresno State that this is an issue.

3. Committee noted that the former Lab Technician has recently retired, and there likely has not been a continuity of the knowledge (unsure if this person has been replaced). The committee suggests a strategic hiring plan to ensure this is completed, as this will ensure success and safety in the program.
4. D. Lent: R-2 status requires research infrastructure and personnel to maintain this designation.
5. D. Lent noted that *indirects* from grants are supposed to be sent to the departments for upkeep, and that this is not something they are seeing.
    a) Dean Lowham notes that APM 503 specifies that individual faculty members cannot receive *indirects.* She will look into this for the committee
6. The committee highlighted the issue of clarity surrounding the timing of coursework and milestones (research, etc). Suggests having students identify a mentor prior to admission. Create a clear and well established timeline/roadmap with checkpoints. Consider adjusting the catalog copy to make clear the fact that the program may take 5-6 semesters due to research, etc.
7. Faculty numbers are healthy based on enrollment/support to current majors and coursework used by other majors
8. It was noted that the program has high quality graduate students, excels at shepherding students on to industry/PhD
9. Current Enrolment: 31 (up from 17 in 2019). The department has brought in new research faculty during the past 5-6 years, and this has helped with this number.

C. Options for Program Review Designation
    1. Discussed that there is room to grow for the program, improvements in alumni connections, timeline to degree/clarification, etc.
    2. **MSC To Designate as a Program of Promise.**

MSC to adjourn at 2:40 p.m.

Agenda for Tuesday, February 4, 2025

I. Approval of minutes from January 28, 2025
II. Approval of agenda for February, 2025
III. Communications and Announcements
IV. Guest F. Nelson to discuss assessment

V. English MA and Creative Writing MFA - Program Review

VI. APM 222 - Preliminary Discussion