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 21, 2025

Members Present: D. Lent (Chair), E. Lowham (Ex-officio), S. Hernández, A. Hoskins, D. Calleros

Members Absent: N. Mahalik, M. Crowford, L. Diala

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair D. Lent

I. MSC: Approved of the minutes for December, 10 2024
II. MSC: Approved of the agenda for January 21, 2025
III. Communication and Announcements
    A. Elizabeth Lowham was introduced as the new interim Dean of Graduate Studies. She talked about her prior experience in graduate education and expressed a desire to learn and support the committee's work. The Committee introduced its members present.
    B. The Committee discussed communication breakdown and the approval process for program changes, particularly those involving modality shifts to online programs. Hernández questioned whether it would be possible to meet the April 1st deadline for programs going through the process. The UGC voiced concern with the lack of clarity on how decisions get made after they leave the committee.
    C. The discussion shifted to APM 206 and how the Academic Senate is holding up approvals pending the revision. It was mentioned that some programs believe delays are attributed to Graduate Studies. Lent commented that the Executive Committee's concerns stem from wanting to ensure the recommendations of the post-COVID task force are properly implemented in APM 206. The Executive Committee is concerned about setting precedents and are holding up all online program conversions until APM 206 is passed.
    D. The UGC resumed discussions about how to measure credit hours and contact hours for asynchronous classes as there is no clear policy beyond what’s in the CSU documentation, which simply states that CSU campuses are allowed to determine policies.
    E. The issue of processing TA and Non-Resident Waivers was raised. Lowham noted that TA waivers can’t be applied if a student has a hold on their account. The

processing of these waivers has been slow, with students often not receiving them until late in the semester. Lent mentioned there is an issue with communication with these requests as well, making it difficult to know how to track or ensure requests get fulfilled. Lent also inquired about potential funding issues for future fee waivers. Lowham will reach back when she has that information.

IV. Psychology MA - Program Revision
    A. The Committee approved a change in the unit count of a core course from 1 to 2 units, bringing the total program to 31 units. The committee did not see any reason to question the change.

V. Earth and Environmental Sciences Recruitment Plan
    A. The UGC reviewed the EES program's recruitment plan in response to low graduation numbers. While the plan was seen as a start, there were concerns about faculty engagement and the lack of timeline for gauging if the plan is effective. It was noted that the committee will give additional feedback that it is the state's policy, not the committee's, to determine the number of required grads per year. Lent will communicate with the EES program regarding their recruitment plan and policy concerns.

MSC to adjourn at 2:35 p.m.

Agenda for Tuesday, January, 28 2025

I. Approval of minutes from January 21, 2025
II. Approval of agenda for January 28, 2025
III. Communications and Announcements
IV. Chemistry MS - Program Review