MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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February 25, 2020

Members Present: S. Church (Chair), J. Marshall (ex officio), K. Capehart, D. Lent, N. Wang, S. Tracz, D. Walker. Theresa Taliaferro (observer).

Members Excused: T. Lopez

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. in TA 117 by Chair S. Church

1. Minutes: MSC to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2020
2. Agenda: MSC to approve agenda
3. Communications and Announcements

* Graduate Coordinator breakfast February 27, 2020, 8am-10am. One key topic to be discussed is enrollment (applications are down).
* Discussion of decrease/loss of funding for Graduate Programs University-wide

1. MAT Online Program Review Discussion

Comments and concerns.

Timeline laid out by program review and good response by Department on how and when they will meet these objectives.

Noted issues include curriculum being outdated and not aligned with the advanced nature of the pedagogy.

Expectations of students with a degree is well defined but mechanisms used to ensure students meet the expectations are unclear.

SOAP is not easily accessible and does not match the comments by the review team (cannot find the information that is referenced).

What is driving the changes to decrease units to 6 per semester and how will courses be changed to accommodate such changes?

There is a lack of data from alumni and employers which is mentioned by the site review team.

Noted high level of satisfaction from the students that are part of the program.

What are some of the challenges of teaching this online?

Discussed what defines the Action Research requirement. Focus on local issues and concerns relevant to the student teachers.

1. Educational Leadership Doctoral Program Review Discussion

Guests: I. Hernandez, S. Hernandez, K. Coy, T. Jennings, K. Godfrey

Commended the attending faculty and leadership on their success with the program and the student satisfaction.

Current update on action items: Have formed committees to work on research presentations and other curricular needs. Running search for support staff to work on assessment. Budget analysis has been engaged to work on the budget details of the day-to-day operations.

Other comments:

Questions on handbooks: Tasked committee that has already met to address these issues and are currently engaged in the revisions. Ensuring the by-laws are consistent with student handbook and are working to develop faculty handbook to educate new faculty on procedures, regulations and requirements. Maintain Canvas for each cohort which could hold the handbook.

Questions on SOAP: Minor revisions are still necessary. Realize the program needs to better adhere to the outcomes and are hiring administrative assistant (active search) that will work on data collection and assessment.

Questions on curriculum and dissertation planning: Specialization classes are limited due to other workload requirements of faculty. Program is narrowing options to ensure support throughout dissertation. Shift course load expectations by distributing research support seminars throughout degree program. Have active meetings to enact these changes. Still questions regarding placement with research mentors. Why with positive carry forward finances are courses still limited? May start allowing more outside faculty to fulfill the needs of specialization courses. Issues with equity in enrollment still something that need to be addressed (i.e. class of 3 vs. class of 20 provides perception of inequality). Cohorts also lead to shifts in demand of specialization classes.

Comments on doctoral funds: Using the carry forward to renovate courses and fund other initiatives. Realize the amount is too high and working to evaluate the right balance moving forward. Discussed using carry forward to compensate dissertation committee, but external review felt that any compensation may provide the wrong incentive and have not thought about in a lot of depth. Looking at a more equitable use of the funds so that few do not get the most benefit.

Questions on ensuring broad representation of faculty: This is increasing and trying to balance expertise. Is there an effort to bring in non-academics (i.e. high-level administrators)? Had not made much of an effort but felt more strongly about maintaining a high level of academic rigor research is primary goal, rather than narrow, local viewpoints. Refined the process of assigning workload in consultation with Department Chairs. Built inventory of self-identified expertise to help assignment of workload.

Question about director and chair roles: The new director felt that their role is a coordinator and should not be doing a number of tasks that fall under the purview of the chair. Felt the structure of chair and director as separate entities is in line with APM.

1. MSC adjourned at 3:01 p.m.
2. The next scheduled meeting of the University Graduate Committee is Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. in TA 117.

* Business and announcements
* Decision of Doctoral Program in Ed Leadership
* Meet with MAT Program faculty.
* Discuss Industrial Tech Program Review