

California State University, Stanislaus
Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2020

Present: U. Ghuman (chair), A. Mayer (chair-elect), K. Baker, A. Dorsey, M. Tynan, P. Strauss, K. Kidd, C. Martin, M. Tiscareno, B. Sardella, S. Whitehead, A. Mboka, K. Olivant, D. Avalos, R. Rodriguez, J. Tuedio

Guests: L. Bernardo, V. Hernandez, G. Aulak (recording), N. Gonzalez, J. Myers

- I. **Call to Order.** U. Ghuman called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda of March 12, 2020 was approved as distributed.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of February 20, 2020 were approved as distributed.

- IV. **Information, Announcements, Reports.**
 - a. Ghuman reminded members there is only one more meeting left for this semester.
 - b. Kidd offered assisting faculty that may need guidance on moving course materials online.
 - c. Ghuman shared the University does not have online proctoring of exams. This is challenging for courses that have comprehensive exams. Aulak will create an "Online Pedagogical Issues" as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

- V. **Old Business**
 - a. **Specialized Accreditation Substitution.** Ghuman shared the revised Guidelines for Graduate Council Evaluations of Academic Program Review for Master's Degree and Doctoral Programs document. Programs that are externally accredited can choose to complete the specialized accreditation document or the traditional academic program review process.

 - b. **Fee Waiver Pilot Program for Teaching Associates.** Noelia Gonzalez and Jason Myers attended the meeting to answer questions and concerns about fee waiver pilot program for teaching associates. Gonzalez informed members if fee waiver or fellowship is paid as a salary then it does not count. If students receive it through the financial services department, it does count. Stipends are no longer utilized. Students can apply for the state university grant or student loans. Cost of attendance is high enough to have both. If something is waived, students can no longer receive state university grants. Most fellowships are not that big. Myers informed members there are three groups of union contracts for students. Students hold the title of their position. The pilot program is to offer a limited number of fee waivers. The President may choose to offer GTAs individually. Students will be employed and they will get paid. This may be an incentive to recruit candidates. The pilot would be initiated in English and Biology. The

current Teaching Associates are employees under a contract and we can choose to waive their tuition. The waiver could hurt their financial aid. Currently, getting paid does not hurt student's financial aid eligibility. It is a possibility that they may replace current instructional pools. However, there are departments that struggle to find qualified instructors. So, it could be applying additional capacity that they need.

- Ghuman suggested offering other opportunities for programs that cannot use this pilot program for equity. Myers informed members they can state equity implications or that it should not forward until it is available to all programs. The President can offer fee waivers individually to graduate assistants or graduate teaching associates. We could choose to do any legitimate criteria.
- Ghuman thanked Gonzalez and Myers for being present to answer questions and concerns. Ghuman will craft a statement and share with members. The final statement will be sent to Olivant and Provost Greer.

c. **Developing Graduate Writing Support.** Deferred.

d. **Student involvement in Graduate Dean Search.** Mayer informed members the search will proceed via Zoom. Avalos recommended candidates to meet with council and graduate students in two different sessions. The sessions should be advertised on Stan News and promoted on particular pages. Members suggested the search committee to draft an email that program directors can share with their students about the search and student session. Program directors should also mention it in their classes. The student session should be in the evening. Avalos highlighted the support she has received from Dean Rodriguez, ASI, and CECE. Dean Rodriguez provided space designated for graduate students. Aulak will create an Agenda item "Graduate Student Culture" for future discussion of this issue.

e. **Academic Program Review**

- **English APR.** Deferred.

VI. **Other (information only).** None.

VII. **Tabled Business**

a. **Academic Program Review**

- **Public Administration APR.** Ghuman informed members the Public Administration APR is with CAHSS Budget Planning Committee.

b. **Graduate Education Action Plan.** Deferred.

c. **Course Time Module Scheduling Policy Review.** Deferred.

VIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

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