

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

April 15, 2009

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. James Freeman, Ms. Laura Freeman, Mr. Bill Galloway for Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Tom Martin, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Hannah Swiger, Ms. Kathy Webb-Farley for Ms. Amanda Olejarski

Absent with Notification: Ms. Megan Armbruster, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Patrick Miller, Mr. Tom Gorman, Dr. Michael Mortimer, Ms. Penny McCallum, Dr. Richard Benson, Dr. Sue Murrmann; Ms. Amanda Olejarski

Absent without Notification: Ms. Evelyn Richardson

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Monika Gibson, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. George Flick, Dr. Joseph Marcy

Dr. Paul Deck, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from April 1, 2009: Approved.

Dr. Deck asked the commission to allow Dr. Flick and Dr. Marcy from Food Science and Technology to present the new option, Master of Science in Life Sciences before the regular agenda items.

Following an opportunity for questions and answers, the commission approved the option and thanked Dr. Flick and Dr. Marcy for sharing the proposal with them.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Minutes from April 9, 2009 were approved. Minutes from an additional meeting to discuss conjoint courses will be distributed electronically for approval. Dr. DePauw reminded the commission that any conjoint courses not approved at the upcoming meeting on April 23rd will have to follow a different procedure in the fall.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Ms. Margaret Merrill presented a draft of a policy addressing additional employment for students on assistantships. Dr. DePauw said that rather than developing a policy right away, she would like guidance from DRSCAP and the commission about the issue of employment off-campus for students on [twenty hour] assistantships. Also, if a student has a concern about his assistantship hours, where would he/she appeal?

Some changes in language were approved, but the commission voted to send the issue back to the DRSCAP committee. The committee will continue the discussion on whether graduate students can work more than 20 hours and, if so, under what conditions. They will bring the issue back to the commission for discussion for the fall 2009-2010 academic year. The committee may invite Monika Gibson to help develop recommendations.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

Transition

The GSA is currently in a transition period. They are selecting new program chairs; the last delegate meeting is on Thursday (23rd); and a transition meeting is scheduled for the 22nd. The last social event, “Casino Night”, is on Saturday. The GSA “Relay for Life” team is one of the top fund-raisers of the event.

The Medical Leave Review Resolution

The commission reviewed and supported the GSA Resolution. Dr. DePauw will bring it forward to the various administrative offices, including the budget office

Graduate Honor System (GHS):

Mr. James Freeman presented a revised proposal for the GHS constitution which incorporated recommended edits from the April 1st discussion. The commission voted to approve the amended GHS constitution.

University Library Committee (ULC):

Dr. Hitchingham reported that the committee’s last meeting of the year was yesterday. Beginning with the spring/summer term, the library will be closing the entryway to the Torgersen bridge after 5:00 and during the weekend.

The committee gave input on a proposal to expand space on the lower level of the library to create a study area for students as well as an area to hold meetings with audiovisual capability.

University Council:

Dr. Deck attended the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (CUSP) on Monday and discussed the Resolution 2008-09B. The CUSP voted to reject the resolution and will encourage members of the University Council to reject the resolution. Dr. Deck described concerns about both procedural and substantive issues that were expressed by the CUSP. The commission voted to withdraw the resolution. The commission also expressed an interest in continuing to work with CUSP on a resolution.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Policy Memo 232 on Deletion of Courses in the Last Three Years

The commission voted to approve the proposed deletion of courses not offered in the last 3 years.

Proposed CGS&P Working Rules

Drs. Mallikarjunan, Deck, and Miller proposed some changes in the working rules for the commission’s operations in order to increase efficiency. The proposal will be an agenda item for commission members in the fall.

Announcements:

Dr. DePauw reminded the commission about the paver project and the upcoming ground-breaking for the amphitheater which is scheduled for October. The entire project will be presented to the public the weekend of the Graduate School Homecoming [October 9 & 10, 2009].

The paver project will document the history of Graduate Education at Virginia Tech. This project is not a fund-raiser; funds generated from the sale of pavers are intended to cover costs.

Dr. DePauw thanked Dr. Deck, Dr. Elvinger, and members of the commission for their efforts on behalf of graduate education at Virginia Tech.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of
Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education