

**Minutes**  
**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**  
**October 3, 2012**  
**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Graduate School Conference Room**

Present: Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah, Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Dr. Marc Brodsky, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Alireza Haghighat, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. Karen Hult, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Wayne Neu, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Gene Seago, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Dr. Stephen Smith, Dr. Dan Thorp

Absent with Notification: Mr. Jalali Mohammad (video conference connection interrupted)

Absent without Notification: None.

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the agenda:** Approved.

**Approval of the minutes from September 19, 2012:** Approved.

**Committee Reports**

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from the September 13<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: The committee has completed the backlog of appeals and made recommendations to Dr. DePauw. The committee has scheduled another meeting to hear a new appeal.

Graduate Student Relations (GSR): No report.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): The committee has scheduled a meeting.

Graduate Student Assembly Report (GSA):

- Graduate Research Program funding is open. Interested students must register using a downloaded form. Funding awards for MS and PhD have been raised to \$500 and \$700, respectively.
- The loss of parking spaces was an issue raised at the recent delegate meeting.
- GSA have declared themselves supporters of the stadium woods preservation effort.
- Yesterday GSA sponsored “Cupcakes with the Dean” in the mezzanine. The event, originally “Dialogue with the Dean” is now scheduled during the noon hour. It attracted at least 40 students and will be held again in December.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Mr. Booker reported that the GHS has closed a number of cases. There are about four remaining cases from spring semester, there are two summer cases that are active, and one fall case is new. Graduate Honor System orientation for departments is fishing, and GHS is currently training faculty and student panelists. The most common violations involve plagiarism and cheating. Dr. DePauw has been contacted by Turnitin and will be speaking with a representative.

University Library Committee (ULC): The committee has met once and started to review open access and data management policy. In two weeks they will meet with Cameron Neylan from the Public Library of Science about open access publishing.

Virginia Tech Libraries is offering, in partnership with the Office of Senior Vice President and Provost and the Office of the Vice President for Research, an open access (OA) subvention fund to subsidize article processing fees for scholarly peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication in open access or hybrid OA journals.

Open Access Week is October 15 – 19 and will include an introduction to VT Works and Knowledge Drive. It is a joint venture with the Office of Research and the Office of the Provost.

University Council: The council met on Monday. They approved a change of membership for the Commission on International Affairs and Outreach. There was a first reading for the new undergraduate program in real estate.

Graduate School:

The School of Education no longer needs the Professional Certification Status which is still included in the Graduate Catalog. Following discussion, the commission agreed it should be removed.

Dr. DePauw sent the strategic plan to the provost. She will post it in Scholar.

**Old Business:**

Research hours 5994, 7994: The commission continued their discussion of the 5994 and 7994 course designations for research hours for the MS and PhD, respectively. The commission decided to keep both numbers to delineate masters from doctoral research hours. Students who pursue a doctorate may use 5994 hours on their plan of study if the research hours were not counted toward their masters' degree. The Graduate School makes a notation on the student's record that 5994 hours were not used toward the master's degree and so may be used for the doctorate degree.

**New Business:**

Student evaluations of advisors: The commission discussed a variety of ways that graduate students could give feedback to advisors. The Graduate School will continue to investigate and include the ombudsperson as well as exit survey results in their discussions.

**Announcements:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.

*Respectfully submitted:*

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, on behalf of

Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education