

**Minutes**  
**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**  
**February 1, 2012**  
**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Graduate School Conference Room**

Present: Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah, Ms. Janice Austin, Mr. Marc Brodsky, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Ms. Natalie Cruise, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Karen Hult, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Patrick Miller, Ms. Akiko Nakamura, Dr. Robin Panneton, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Susan Short, Ms. Katelyn Shugart-Schmidt, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Mr. Leighton Vila, Dr. Tyler Walters, Dr. Jim Yardley

Absent with Notification: Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson

Absent without Notification: Mr. Mohammed Jalili, Dr. Wayne Neu

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Pat Hyer, Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the agenda:** Approved.

**Approval of the minutes from January 18, 2012:** Approved.

**Committee Reports**

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Minutes from the Graduate Curriculum Committee will be on the February 15 meeting agenda.

Graduate Student Appeals: Ms. Feuerbach will schedule a committee meeting to review an appeal.

Graduate Student Relations (GSR): No report.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): Dr. Pat Hyer presented the resolution addressing the revision of Graduate School policy on advisor conflict of interest which would read:

*Faculty members are not permitted to serve as Advisor or committee member for family members (spouse or dependent immediate family member), nor for individuals with whom they have a close personal relationship such as partner or extended family member, or a close professional relationship such as business associate or supervisor.*

*A faculty member with a significant financial interest may not serve as sole advisor of a dissertation or thesis committee for a student who is funded through a university sponsored project supported by the advisor's company, or for a student who is employed directly by the faculty member's company. The faculty member with the conflict may serve as co-chair or committee member. If another co-chair is appointed, that faculty member must be of equal or greater rank, must not be involved with the sponsoring company, and must not be subject to undue influence by the faculty-owner. See policy 13010 for a complete description of the disclosures and protections required in such instances.*

The commission voted to approve the revision.

Past, Present, Future of Graduate Education: Ms. Dannette Beane, Director, Office of Graduate Recruiting & Diversity Initiatives, gave an overview of the history of the office of recruiting and current programs, as well as enrollment trends. Dr. DePauw asked commission members to encourage their colleges and departments to contact Ms. Beane about the coordinated schools visit program, the preview weekend, etc.

Graduate Student Assembly Report (GSA): Ms. Abdallah reported that the review results of the abstract submissions to the Research Symposium will be posted online. Eighty-nine abstracts were accepted.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Ms. Shugart-Schmidt reported that there were four cases over the fall semester. There is a meeting scheduled for the focus group assigned to evaluate sanctions currently offered and explore other options. A position advertisement has been posted for the new education / outreach coordinator position.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Brodsky described additional outreach efforts including a scavenger hunt at the library (today) and an invitation to the public to learn more about Special Collections by visiting this section of the library. Special Collections will be open to the public on the first Tuesday of every month this semester. Dr. Walters announced the library has hired a new college librarian for humanities and digital humanities. The next library committee meeting is February 15<sup>th</sup>.

University Council: No report.

Graduate School:

- Dr. DePauw asked commission members to mark their calendars for March 26<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>, Graduate Education Week. She encouraged everyone to let the Graduate School know of their departmental plans for the week.
- The Board of Visitors search announcement for a Graduate Student representative has been posted and Dr. DePauw asked that commission members circulate this information. Another process underway is the nomination of graduate students to the Graduate Student Assembly offices.
- The Virginia Council of Graduate Schools Research Forum will be in Charlottesville on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Students selected to participate are from underrepresented groups in STEM fields. It follows the Virginia Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate planning conference scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> in Charlottesville. The ultimate goal of this NSF funded effort is to develop a model for the identification, education, and employment of underrepresented minorities in STEM fields. The second planning conference will be in the fall of 2012. Dr. DePauw is the principal investigator for the grant. Students from the research forum will be part of focus groups during the planning conference.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** The next DRSCAP meeting is February 8th, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

*Respectfully submitted:*

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