

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

March 19, 2014

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Mr. Matt Banfield, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Ms. Kira Dietz, Dr. Kay Dunkley via phone, Dr. Joe Eifert, Ms. Samantha Erwin, Dr. Alireza Haghigat via videoconference, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. James Jones, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Ms. Sally Wieringa, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: Dean Karen DePauw, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Dr. Gary Seidel

Absent without Notification: Dr. Cyril Clarke, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Dr. Tyler Walters

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin

Dr. Joe Eifert, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda with one item added: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from March 5, 2014: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Subbiah-No report

Graduate Student Appeals

Dr. Hausman-There is nothing open.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP)

Dr. Robinson reported on four issues discussed at the last meeting.

- At the last DRSCAP meeting they discussed doing away with all cross-listed courses. They decided to take no action. Instead, Dr. Blieszner will educate departments on what they need to know about cross-listed courses. When a course is cross-listed, all departments involved must have students sign up for their course to keep the cross-listing alive.
- Concerning the “Defending Student Status” form, they decided to change the title to “Start of Semester Defense Exception”. This will eliminate much confusion. No resolution is needed to change this form. They want to change the name of this form in the catalog and on the website; there is no change in policy. The current title is misleading and the committee thought students felt everyone should fill out the form. (Note, it deals with only 1 credit, but this should be an exception). Dr. Robinson made a motion to add this to the agenda under new business.
- Current status of our resolution on the cooperative education program (fees). University Council has not put this on their agenda; they are waiting for meetings to occur. They are concerned this may have an impact on a student’s immigration status. They are also concerned about tuition. The budget committee needs to meet.
- CEP PowerPoint. This PowerPoint was about the “continuous enrollment policy”. [See his handout]. Discussion ensued about policies and funding problems. Rules vary by department. Dr. Robinson would like feedback on his presentation at the next meeting. There will be more information at the next CGS&P meeting.

Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Purdy reported that Ms. Feuerbach will send an email about the websites for the two following funds: The Graduate Research Development Program and the Graduate Travel Fund Program. The Graduate Research Development Program fund will be open March 24th for students to apply for funds. It will stay open through April 1st. The Graduate Travel Fund Program is open until March 30th. It has been open for about a week and a half. Mr. Purdy asked the commission to encourage your graduate students to apply for funds if their requests fit the criteria. The Research Symposium is scheduled for next Wednesday. More judges are needed.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)-There was no report.

University Library Committee

Dr. Dietz for the University Library Committee made several announcements. The issue of plagiarism will be discussed in a talk here in the GLC. And tomorrow there is another talk entitled "Making big data human". This will also occur in the GLC. Next Monday the library will have a kick-off at the GLC for Graduate Education Week. In addition, March 25th is the 2nd annual Celebration of Appalachian culture. And lastly, Scholar has integrated library help inside Scholar.

University Council and Commission Updates- The last University Council meeting was cancelled due to lack of items on the agenda. There are three more meetings. Dr. Subbiah had no report for the Commission.

Graduate School Updates- Dean Karen DePauw is traveling. No report.

Old Business- None

New Business

- The Certificate Deletion Memo was discussed. This is an update on certificates that are not being given. These certificates are inactive, but were never formally deleted. The 2nd reading was waived. The vote was to accept this list. There was a small amount of discussion. The vote was to approve section 1 and 2 of this document for deletion.
- The form "Defending Student Status" and its name change was discussed. This form was mentioned earlier in the agenda for today. The form's name will be changed in the catalog and on-line. The 2nd reading for this was waived. Ms. Austin reported that this form can be used all summer. It is for 1 credit hour. The vote was Yes, to add this to the agenda and yes to approve. There was a small amount of discussion.
- Upcoming elections was brought up by the chair, Dr. Eifert. April Myers wanted him to discuss this for next year. They talked about members and their eligibility to be chair. The election is not now but will be held at a future meeting. Discussion ensued on how one gets on this commission and what duties the chair and co-chair have. Dr. Eifert will take nominations or questions from those interested before the next meeting.

Announcements- The next meeting is 4/2/14.

Dr. Bolding wanted to discuss what is printed on a student's diploma. Some departments put the degree name and the department's name on the diplomas and some do not. There is no uniformity. A decision on making this uniform throughout VT was delayed. There was a discussion concerning this issue. There are pros and cons to including the degree name on the diploma or leaving it off. Some departments insist on including it. There will be further discussion at our next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Madis

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