

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

April 2, 2014

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Mr. Matt Banfield, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Ms. Kira Dietz, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley via phone, Ms. Samantha Erwin, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. Patil Mayuresh, Dr. Gary Seidel, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: Dr. Cyril Clarke, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Dr. James Jones, Ms. Sally Wieringa

Absent without Notification: Dr. Tyler Walters

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Muhammad Hajj

Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from March 19, 2014: Approved with a minor amendment.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Subbiah briefly reviewed committee activities. Meeting minutes will be on the next commission meeting agenda.

Graduate Student Appeals

Dr. Hausman reported that the committee has received one new appeal and is scheduled to meet later in April.

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

Dr. Robinson described the committee's activities:

The cooperative education resolution will be on the April 7 University Council meeting agenda for a first reading. The budget office has some compliance concerns. The primary issue of concern is the immigration status of students on Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Tim Hodge, Budget Office, suggested assigning a one hour credit for CPT, similar to our SCHEV peers and the practices of other large research universities.

The committee is proposing two new resolutions under New Business: (1) Resolution on Graduate Continuous Enrollment, Leave of Absence, and in Absentia Status and (2) Resolution to Omit Degree Titles from Graduate Diplomas

Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Greg Purdy reviewed GSA's activities:

- Last week was Graduate Education Week
- The GSA held a health insurance forum. Next year the GSA will schedule a health insurance representative in the GLC once a week to meet with students. The GSA will also be putting health insurance FAQs on their website. There will be some increases in health insurance rates in order to be in compliance with the Affordable Care Act; cost will increase by 10%.
- The Research Symposium was held last Wednesday. Next year the GSA will begin recruiting judges in the fall. The focus of the symposium will be shifting to “communicating science” so judges will be tasked with evaluating how well a student can communicate their research to a less specialized audience. The GSA hopes this will broaden the pool of potential judges. The commission suggested some other ways that GSA might be able to recruit volunteer judges. An opportunity to give feedback will be sent via the survey tool next week.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

No report

University Library Committee

Ms. Dietz had a few announcements from the library:

- Veterinary Medicine library materials have been moved to a remote storage due to renovations.
- Next week there are three Network Learning Initiatives (NLI) workshops on: data management, records management, and cloud computing.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council: no report

Commission on Outreach and International Affairs: Dr. Subbiah reported that two resolutions were discussed at the last meeting concerning (1) a voluntary health disclosure form for study abroad and (2) a student residency requirement for the final 45 hours. Residency requirements are more challenging for students studying abroad.

Commission on Student Affairs: Mr. Purdy reported that at the last meeting a representative from the equal opportunity and diversity office talked about including gender equality in policy 1025 (Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment). New legislation for state employees has included gender identity as a status. Because students are not employees, they are not protected.

Graduate School Updates

No report.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resolution to Omit Degree Titles from Graduate Diplomas: The commission discussed the resolution and the procedure for exceptions. The resolution will be on the agenda for a second reading on April 16, 2014.

Resolution on Graduate Continuous Enrollment, Leave of Absence, and in Absentia Status: Dr. Robinson explained the purpose of the resolution. The commission reviewed the resolution, asked for clarification, and discussed the impact on students including access to regular and auxiliary services. The resolution will be on the agenda for a second reading on April 16, 2014.

Announcements

None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach on behalf of

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