

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

April 5, 2017

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Karen DePauw (ex officio), Dr. Sally Paulson (Chair), Dr. Rajesh Bagchi, Dr. Sudip Bhattacharjee, Dr. Nancy Bodenhorn, Dr. Charlene Eska, Dr. Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Dr. William Huckle, Mr. Omchand Mahdu (for Ms. Alexandra Hylar), Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Ms. Erin Lavender-Stott, Dr. Kathy Lu, Mr. Brett Netto, Ms. Hannah Parks, Dr. Annie Pearce, Ms. Samantha Fried (proxy for Ms. Libbie Sonnier-Netto), Dr. Zhiwu Xie, and Dr. Ying Zhou.

Absent with Notification: Dr. Lujean Baab, Dr. Kevin Edgar, Dr. Lesa Hanlin, Ms. Tara Reel, Dr. Robert Sumichrast, and Dr. Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent without Notification: None.

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin and Dr. Muhammed Hajj.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Paulson at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes from March 15, 2017

The minutes were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Hajj reported on the GCC minutes. The minutes were accepted by the committee.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

There was no report.

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

There was no report. The committee meets tomorrow.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Netto reported the Graduate Student Symposium was very successful. There was a beer and wine social on Saturday and enjoyed by all. The Dean will be with students in Roanoke tomorrow.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Ms. Lavender-Stott indicated the number of cases has increased and a cultural shift is suspected. Ms. Lavender-Stott believes that the students are gaining trust in the system; also, the undergraduate and graduate systems are more similar. Dr. DePauw noted that the Vet-Med process has also improved in its effectiveness. Ms. Lavender-Stott will begin scheduling the fall departmental meetings soon.

University Library Committee

Dr. Zie noted that the committee is considering graduate student research policy and will request feedback from CGS&P soon.

Faculty Senate

There was no report.

Student Government Association (SGA)

There was no report.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Paulson commended all of the graduate students for their accomplishments during the research symposium last week.

Dr. Paulson attended the last two University Council meetings. Both the horticulture and dairy science resolutions have been approved. The TBMH first reading has also been held. Slight changes, to include a reduction in the number of credits by removing a seminar in each semester, have been made to the original TBMH resolution prior to the second reading at University Council.

The Pathways diversity and inclusion requirement has been passed by CUSP.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw reported that the awards banquet was held last week and was well-received. All of the Graduate Education Week activities were very successful and Dr. DePauw thanked the Graduate School staff for their efforts. The BOV rector also attended the research symposium and was very complimentary of the students' depth of research and accomplishments. The BOV passed the graduate student compensation package for next year. The university is paying 88% of the health insurance premium for graduate students, which is the same percentage as for university employees. Tuition increases were also approved by the BOV. The Provost in the Academic Affairs Committee meeting announced that undergraduate enrollment would increase to 30,000 and graduate enrollment to 10,000 in the next five years. Much of the graduate enrollment increase will be in the National Capital Region.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A letter was received from Mr. Davis requesting consideration of a posthumous award for the Master's in Architecture degree student, Robert L. Kovack. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the commission members. The degree will be given to the family at the College ceremony.

The ethics survey results were shared with the members and an open discussion followed. The enrollment cap has been removed from the course; the course will be considered by GCC as a potential two-credit course. An on-going focus to ensure awareness and possible modifications to strengthen delivery will continue. Consideration will be given for additional certifications from the student at the point of the prelim and defense.

Announcements

Dr. Paulson reported that Dr. Edgar has received a new award from the American Chemical Society.

Dr. DePauw reminded everyone that elections for CGS&P positions will be held at a future meeting. Also, the associate dean for the Graduate School position is currently open and review of applications will begin April 17th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Marilynn R. King
on behalf of Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D.
Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education