

## **Minutes**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

**April 16, 2014**

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Graduate School Conference Room**

Present: Mr. Matt Banfield, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Kira Dietz, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Joe Eifert, Ms. Samantha Erwin, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Patil Mayuresh, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Dr. Tyler Walters, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: Dr. Cyril Clarke, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, Dr. Gary Seidel, Ms. Sally Wieringa

Absent without Notification: Dr. Rachel Holloway

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

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

**Approval of the agenda:** Approved as amended. A discussion of the co-op resolution was added to old business and it was decided that library resources would be discussed following approval of the minutes.

**Approval of the minutes from April 2, 2014:** Approved.

University libraries long-term funding: Dr. Katie Boes, a member of the University Library Committee (ULD), gave an overview of specific library needs of as well as ULC recommendations for enhancing the libraries' role in advancing the university strategic plan. Her presentation included a handout. The commission agreed to put library long-term funding on the agenda at its first fall meeting in 2014.

## **Committee Reports**

### Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah:

The minutes from March 27, 2014 and April 10, 2014 were accepted for filing. The committee has one more meeting this year. Minutes from that meeting will be circulated electronically to the commission.

### Graduate Student Appeals

Dr. Bernice Hausman:

The committee is scheduled to meet next Monday. There are currently two appeals.

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

Dr. Hans Robinson:

Issues under old business: (1) continuous enrollment, (2) cooperative education fee with a proposed compromise of a one credit course charge and (3) name of degree on diploma resolution

## **Constituencies Updates**

### Graduate Student Assembly

Mr. Greg Purdy:

- Funding programs: the submission cycle is closed; currently reviewing applications. Notifications should go out May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- GSA is revising the constitution and by-laws; e.g., is the delegate model working? Can e-mail him feedback.
- Elections held next Thursday, April 24. Please let students interested in running know.
- Research Symposium awards are going out; a feedback survey will be live at the end of this week.

### Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Mr. Mordecai Harvey updated the commission on the current case load. GHS will continue its work over the summer.

### University Library Committee

Ms. Dietz announced that Friday was the application deadline for graduate reference library assistants.

## **University Council and Commission Updates**

### University Council

Dr. Joe Eifert:

- Council discussed three resolutions, one from the Commission on Research to change membership, one from the Commission on Student Affairs to reduce the printing of receipts in the dining halls. CUSP presented resolutions to change the course withdrawal policy as well as a name change for a department.

Mr. Greg Purdy:

- CSA is drafting a policy to revise Policy No. 1025 on Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Prevention to include both gender identity and gender expression. CEOD is drafting a policy that would just include gender identity.

### UCIA

Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah:

- There are three training programs for faculty on study abroad: (1) pre-departure orientation, (2) Title IX training; and (3) fund management and planning
- April 24 is the Education Abroad Photo exhibit at the XYZ studio.
- Language and Culture Institute will be hosting visitors from Kurdistan.
- The VT-India ICTAS project will be completed by May 20, with a grand opening on May 19.
- The International Support Services office has moved to the Gateway Center on University City Boulevard, Suite 12. The new associate director is Mollie LoJacono.

## **Graduate School Updates**

Dr. DePauw encouraged commission members to attend commencement.

### **Old Business**

Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014-2015. The commission approved the election of Dr. Hans Robinson as the new chair and Dr. Saul Halfon as vice-chair.

Enrollment Requirement for the Graduate Cooperative Education Program: The commission voted to amend the resolution to requiring students to register for a one-credit [Blacksburg campus] course, rather than pay an administrative fee for a zero credit course. Following discussion, the commission voted to

approve the amendment to the resolution. Drs. Robinson, Eifert, and DePauw will work on facilitating the amendment through governance.

Resolution to Omit Degree Titles from Graduate Diplomas, Second Reading: Dr. Hans Robinson reviewed changes and edits to the resolution per suggestions from the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. As amended, the resolution applies to diplomas at the Ph.D. level. Master's level would display the degree title. Following a brief discussion and a few editorial recommendations, the amended resolution was approved.

Resolution on Graduate Continuous Enrollment, Leave of Absence, and in Absentia Status: Dr. Robinson described some revisions made since the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The budget office expressed some interest in discussing summer access to various facilities. In that context, Dr. Robinson re-opened a discussion on an old proposal about summer status students and possible enrollment options. The discussion was deferred until the fall.

### **New Business**

Untaught Courses: The commission voted to approve the deletion of untaught courses in accordance with Presidential Policy Memorandum 232.

FST Health Product Risk Management: Dr. DePauw informed the commission that the certificate program was discontinued.

**Announcements:** Dr. DePauw thanked the Chair, Vice-Chair, committees and membership of the commission.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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