

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

September 16, 2015

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Karen DePauw (ex officio), Dr. Saul Halfon, Mr. Melvin Amos, Mr. Nathan Carter, Ms. Kira Dietz, Dr. Kevin Edgar, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Sally Paulson, Ms. Tara Reel, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Scott Salom, Dr. Gary Seidel, Mr. Mohammed Seyam, Ms. Maria Stack, Ms. Dawn Stoneking, and Dr. Christopher Zobel.

Absent with Notification: Dr. Cyril Clarke, Mr. Matt Chan, Ms. Chelsea Corkins, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Charlene Eska, and Ms. Sally Wieringa.

Absent without Notification: Dr. Ellen Plummer (ex officio), and Dr. Tyler Walters (ex officio),

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Muhammed Hajj, Ms. Najla Mouchrek, Dr. Amy Pruden, and Mr. Kasey Richardson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Halfon at 3:30 p.m. Everyone was invited to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

The Commission approved the agenda as amended, moving the iPhD proposal presentation following the approval of the minutes.

Approval of the Minutes from September 2, 2015

The minutes were approved as amended.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The minutes of September 10, 2015 were presented and accepted.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

The Graduate Student Appeals Committee has just been formally constituted. The committee includes Dr. Jones as chair, and members include Dr. Eska, Dr. Paulson and Ms. Corkins.

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

The DRSCAP Committee includes Dr. Zobel as chair, and members include Ms. Stoneking, Dr. Edgar, Mr. Chan, and Ms. Stack. Dr. Robinson will participate as a consultant.

Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Richardson announced the GSA has been informed of 35 delegate appointees from all of the departments; this number is expected to grow as departments follow-up. The first assembly meeting is next week. The Graduate School Fair will be held next week on September 21st. He is expecting 120 recruiters to participate. This project has raised \$35,000 for GSA activities.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Mr. Carter, Chair, had no report for the Graduate Honor System.

University Library Committee

Ms. Dietz has no report from the library.

University Council and Commission Updates

The University Council has not met. Dr. Halfon attended a meeting of the commission chairs with the president and provost and agendas for the year were discussed. Dr. Halfon will also present the agenda for the year at the first University Council meeting. The Commission on Research will be reviewing the cost of research this year and the impact on students. The Commission on Outreach and International Affairs will focus on international graduate students and language education for our international students. The President spent time talking about the vision for the future and how the commissions can contribute to that vision. The intent is to look past the barriers and consider how policy can move us forward.

Dr. Salom announced the Faculty Senate is preparing a resolution on shared governance. It has been approved by the Faculty Senate as an informational item to move to commission chairs and the Commission on Faculty Affairs. The Faculty Senate will have mechanisms to review, recommend, and evaluate in the governance process. Dr. Halfon announced the Staff Senate is also developing a parallel proposal.

Dr. Halfon invited others to report on their commissions. No other reports were presented. Dr. Hajj will represent the Commission on Undergraduate Policies & Studies. Dr. Halfon encouraged everyone to bring other commission information to the CGS&P membership throughout the year.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw indicated that the Start of Semester Defense Exception (SSDE) is a one-time procedure, however, some students are attempting to use SSDE multiple times. This causes students to continuously postpone degree completion. The Graduate School is implementing a new practice that students who haven't defended when enrolling as SSDE will be required to enroll in 3 credits for the next semester.

If a student earns a C- in a course, the student is required to repeat the course. The new grade is listed on the transcript an RG is posted for the previously earned grade. Students are now repeating courses multiple times. The Graduate School is now monitoring this activity to ensure courses are repeated only once, unless an exception is justified.

Dr. DePauw wants the Commission to give consideration to the conditions for awarding either a Master's or PhD for a deceased student. Dr. Robinson would ask that admission to a program not be considered as

sufficient for a posthumous Master's degree. He thinks that an evaluation of what the student has completed should be reviewed for a PhD posthumous degree. Committee recommendation and passing of the qualifying exam are suggested parameters from Dr. Salom. Differentiation for masters and PhD requirements should be considered in establishing the parameters. Dr. DePauw indicated that a previous process has been in place that allows the Dean to consider the awarding of the degree with the agreement of the Commission. She will bring a case to the Commission at the next meeting. Dr. Robinson recommends we be generous when considering eligibility. Dr. Jones commented that committee members may not be fully involved with the student prior to prelims. As the conversation progressed, it was recognized that the program management at the departmental level is varied and different, not readily lending itself to generalized guidance to determine the posthumous degree. Dr. Halfon indicated that the program committee should be a significant participant in recommending the posthumous degree. A proposal will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

New business for consideration included consideration of the iPhD proposal for "Design for Youth Empowerment: collaborative practices for building capacities for the transition to adulthood" presented by Najla Mouchrek. Dr. DePauw reported that this is the first time we will consider an iPhD proposal and she offered context in providing this type of degree. Dr. DePauw reminded everyone that this type of degree is interdisciplinary. Our current, existing degree programs do not offer this student the education she seeks. Dr. DePauw recognized Dr. Pruden for her contribution in supporting this type of program design. Dr. DePauw is asking the Commission to consider looking at the committee membership, the course work and how it is related to the student's research questions and proposal areas. Dr. DePauw noted she has previous experience in managing this type of program at Washington State University. Prelims are both written and oral; there is not a qualifying exam. Dr. Halfon asked what is the bar; how should we assess how much should be in place ahead of time. Dr. DePauw identified the difficulty in developing a comprehensive program assessment and requested the commission members assist in a thorough review of this proposal. The iPhD proposal is not intended to be a full dissertation proposal. Dr. Halfon asked if there is a relationship between IGEP and iPhD. Dr. DePauw explained that there is no relationship required between IGEP and the iPhD. Support generally comes from the advisor and the advisor's home department. A complexity that is common to the program is identifying funding for the student. The Graduate School cannot provide funding for iPhD's and departments will be asked to support the student.

Ms. Mouchrek presented her proposal to the Commission members. She identified how the many areas are represented in the proposal. She explored design as an integrative field to be developed within education. Education, sustainability, human development and other areas will contribute to her exploration of design. Extensive effort has been made by Ms. Mouchrek and her committee to develop appropriate rigor in the degree construction. She has made effort to develop both the theoretical and applied areas in the proposed program. Committee members include: Dr. Benson, Dr. Baum, Dr. Sible, Dr. Baird, and Ms. Dee. Dr. Halfon called for questions. Dr. Robinson asked how Dr. Sible brings expertise as a committee member since she is a biologist. Ms. Mouchrek explained that Dr. Sible's expertise is from the perspective of her role as Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education. Dr. Edgar asked why this proposal does not fit within a specific department. Dr. DePauw explained that there are many courses beyond the area of Human Development that Ms. Mouchrek wishes to take. The other courses she wishes to take are beyond the discipline of Human Development. Dr. Edgar explained further that he is interested in understanding the process. Dr. Salom asked what the precipitators were for Ms.

Mouchrek to pursue the iPhD. Ms. Mouchrek explained that following her Master's she was seeking an opportunity for a doctorate that would give her the ability to study in her areas of interest. Dr. Zobel explained our responsibility as a University is to ensure employment opportunities are an outcome of degree completion. Dr. Zobel is wondering if we should consider what employment opportunities will be available as a result of the interdisciplinary. Dr. Seidel asked if metrics should be considered to determine a balance of credits from all participating departments and additional points recognized for crossing colleges; further, he asked how should we assess what is interdisciplinary. Dr. DePauw indicated that the courses identified have unique value and are mixed from various departments. Dr. DePauw does not want a numeric metric assigned to define interdisciplinary. Dr. DePauw does expect representation from at least two colleges and two departments. Dr. Halfon reminded everyone that clear articulation of the program proposal and identification of the linkages that clarify the program could not be found in one department is essential to the interdisciplinary expectation. Mr. Carter asked why other disciplines have not been considered in the decision-making process. Dr. DePauw commented on the essence of interdisciplinary study is not being narrow and being wide in focus. Dr. DePauw asked Ms. Mouchrek to make modifications as they were discussed during this meeting. Dr. Halfon asked for clarification on the Commission's role in considering the Program. Dr. DePauw indicated that the Commission serves as an admissions committee and will need to take formal action on the proposal at the next meeting.

The brainstorming agenda item is postponed until the next meeting. Dr. Halfon encouraged members to consider agenda items and submit them to the Dean or himself for consideration.

A Faculty Senate update will be added to the agenda under constituency reports for future meetings.

Announcements

Dr. DePauw announced that everyone has been invited to the GLC happy hour on three Fridays this fall. It will be outdoors. The first will be on September 25th, from 4-6 p.m., a week from this Friday.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/

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