

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
October 5, 2011
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Graduate School Conference Room

Present:, Ms. Janice Austin, Mr. Marc Brodsky, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Ms. Natalie Cruise, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, Dr. Karen Hult, Ms. Akiko Nakamura, Dr. Robin Panneton, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Ms. Tara Frank for Ms. Katelyn Shugart -Schmidt, Dr. Susan Short, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Mr. Leighton Vila, Dr. Tyler Walters, Mr. Jim Yardley

Absent with Notification: Ms. Shaimaa Abdullah, Dr. Patrick Miller

Absent without Notification: Dr. Tom Caceci, Ms. Josey Chacko, Dr. Tom Grizzard, Mr. Mohammed Jalili, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Michelle McLeese, Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from September 21, 2011: Approved with a correction to the date.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): No report.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations (GSR): No report. Dr. DePauw announced that the GSA has started a logo contest.

DRSCAP:

Dr. DePauw gave the committee several charges at their first meeting of the year on September 30th. They will begin a discussion on “Conflict of Interest” at their October 18th meeting. Dr. Pat Hyer will be invited to attend.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly Report (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): The ULC met yesterday. The library committee will be concentrating on two areas:

- Library renovations and dealing with learning spaces Dr. Tyler Walters gave a brief overview of some library renovations being considered.
- The library is also addressing the issue of how to deal with the deluge of digital data.

On November 7th Virginia Tech library personnel will visit North Carolina State University libraries to see how they are managing their renovations. NC State University is considered a national leader in this area. Dr. Walters invited interested commission members to attend.

Ms. Cruise asked if language e-books might be made available to students via the math emporium. Dr. Walters said that the Rosetta Stone program is currently available through the Neuman library. Because the cost is prohibitive, Dr. Walters said there were no current plans to offer the language programs at other campus locations.

Following questions and discussion, Dr. DePauw requested that Dr. Walters make a formal presentation about the university libraries at an upcoming commission meeting.

University Council:

Dr. Soghomonian attended the first University Council meeting of the year. She presented the commission's plans for the upcoming year. All commissions will be meeting this year with Dr. Paul Knox, Director of Long Range Planning.

Both the master's and doctoral degrees in nuclear engineering were presented for a first reading.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Resolution to discontinue the Executive Masters in Information Security Assurance: The commission voted to waive the first reading. Following discussion, the commission voted to approve an amended resolution.

Resolution for renaming the "Department of Wood Science and Forest Products" to the "Department of Sustainable Biomaterials" (agenda corrected). Following discussion, the commission requested that representatives from the department be present at the second reading on October 19th.

GSA Resolution to Facilitate Issuing Curricular Practical Training (CPT) for Graduate Students: Dr. DePauw said the commission passed this resolution over a year ago but has yet to take any action on it. The basic issue, as described by Dr. DePauw, is that undergraduates pay one fee for CPT / OPT and graduate students pay three times as much. If the commission agrees, Dr. DePauw will meet with Dr. Dwight Shelton to see if the discrepancy can be resolved.

Announcements:

A GLC Open House is scheduled for October 21st, 10:00am – 3:00 pm. Dr. DePauw invited commission members to stop by to enjoy coffee and see the exhibits. The Swiss Ambassador will be visiting later in the day.

There are two information sessions scheduled on the new Electronic Forms Application which will include a demonstration for the electronic form submission and faculty approval application. Sessions in the GLC are: Monday, October 10, 3:30 – 4:30 and Tuesday, November 8, 3:45 – 4:45. Dr. DePauw urged commission members to encourage faculty and staff to attend.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) published an article that referenced a book, *Professors Behaving Badly: Faculty Misconduct in Graduate Education*, co-authored by Dr. Alan Bayer, a Virginia Tech professor emeritus of sociology. Some of the issues addressed in the article mirror what is said in our expectations document. Dr. DePauw is going to invite Dr. Bayer to speak at Virginia Tech.

Dr. DePauw asked that before the December meeting the commission has a conversation on:

- Increasing the number of graduate students
- Focus on interdisciplinarity
- Quality graduate education
- Northern VA

The GSA is sponsoring Extreme Makeover, Campus Edition, October 24-26, 2011. Ms. Cruise asked that commission members submit questions to her that they would like to see on the survey they will be conducting over the three day period.

Ms. McLeese invited faculty and staff to attend the GSA wine social on October 21st. This is the same day as the Graduate School Open House. The Swiss Ambassador will be visiting the Graduate School and giving a graduate seminar later in the day.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:53

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, on behalf of

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