

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

November 2, 2011

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah, Mr. Marc Brodsky, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Ms. Natalie Cruise, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, Dr. Karen Hult, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Mr. John Browder for Dr. Patrick Miller, Ms. Akiko Nakamura, Dr. Robin Panneton, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Ms. Katelyn Shugart-Schmidt, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Mr. Leighton Vila, Dr. Tyler Walters, Dr. Jim Yardley

Absent with Notification: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Susan Short

Absent without Notification: Mr. Mohammed Jalili

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Gary Moore, Dr. Janet Rankin

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from October 19, 2011: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from October 13th were approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations (GSR): No report.

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

The committee has met with a graduate student and two faculty members to discuss potential conflict of interest issues that may occur when students work for faculty owned businesses. The DRSCAP committee would like to have a report ready by early December for Dr. Pat Hyer who is co-chairing the committee that is re-writing the conflict of interest policy [PPM 150].

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly Report (GSA): Upcoming events reported were the Hygiene Drive for the NRV homeless shelters and the Oxfam Hunger Banquet. GSA continues to work on finding judges and reviewers for the Research Symposium.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Ms. Katelin Schugart-Schmidt reported that the GHS currently had two cases, one opting for facilitated discussion. She anticipates that the other case will also choose this option. Tomorrow the GHS has a training scheduled at noon for panelists. There will be more training in the spring, and Ms. Schugart-Schmidt would like to recruit more faculty members.

University Library Committee (ULC):

Mr. Brodsky reviewed recent university library activities.

- Forty people are going to North Carolina State on November 7th to look at their library design and use of space
- In December, the first floor renovations will start. The end result should be a more usable, flexible library space.
- The library is participating in the university open house on November 12th. Dr. DePauw noted that the GLC will also be open to the public during the open house and displays will give a historical perspective of the building.

Mr. Vila asked if the lockers in the graduate student study room were available for student use.

University Council: Dr. Soghomonian briefly summarized some items from the October 17th council meeting which were originally reported at the commission's October 19th meeting.

Dr. Tyler Walters, Dean of University Libraries: At the invitation of the commission, Dr. Walters previewed upcoming plans for library including the physical design, training, budget, space constraints and issues related to subscribing to electronic publications.

Future of Graduate Education: Dr. DePauw asked the commission to begin reflecting on the future direction of graduate education at Virginia Tech. She would like to continue the discussion at a future date.

Old Business: None,

New Business:

Multi-Modal Transit Facility (MMTF): Dr. Gary Long presented some concerns with the proposed MMTF. The primary concern is the location of the planned facility and the impact it will have on nearby facilities as well as the environment.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, on behalf of

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