

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
November 5, 2014
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Nathan Carter, Mr. Matthew Chan, Dr. Cyril Clarke, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Kira Dietz, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Charlene Eska, Ms. Ashley Folden, Ms. Ashley Francis, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. James Jones, Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Dr. Ellen Plummer, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Scott Salom, Dr. Gary Seidel, Ms. Maria Stack, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: Ms. Nancy Dudek

Absent without Notification: Dr. Alireza Haghighat, Dr. Tyler Walters, Ms. Sally Wieringa

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Ms. Cathy Grimes

Dr. Hans Robinson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from October 2, 2014: Approved with minor correction.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Saul Halfon, the committee chair, reviewed the meeting activities from October 23, 2014. He anticipates a substantial increase in agenda items at future meetings. The commission accepted the minutes for filing.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): The committee met with Dr. DePauw and discussed changes to the continuous enrollment proposals. They also began a discussion on spouses / partners serving on committees together.

Constituencies Updates:

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Greg Purdy, President, reported:

- The Board of visitors meets on Sunday and Monday
- November 20th is the next delegate meeting. Mr. Purdy asked commission members to encourage students to attend.
- The Travel Fund Program window is closed and there were 165 applicants for the fall application cycle.
- The Graduate Research and Development cycle is open through November 14. Students may apply through the website.

- The Graduate Research Symposium is March 25. Abstracts are being accepted through December 5, 12 noon.
- November 18 is the Little Hokie Donate and Swap in the multipurpose room. Items may be dropped off at the GLC desk through November 17. The target ages are 0 to 10.
- Parking Update: Mr. Purdy encouraged commission members to take the parking survey

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Mr. Nathan Carter, Chief Justice, reported that GHS has two new cases. One is being investigated, and the other opted for facilitated discussion.

University Library Committee

Ms. Kara Dietz asked commission members to ask students to participate in a library usage study. Students may contact her and she'll direct them to the appropriate person.

University Council and Commission Updates:

University Council: Dr. Hans Robinson

The council met and discussed the discontinuance of two undergraduate degrees. There was a presentation on the relationship between the foundation and the university.

Mr. Mathew Chan reported on several commission/committee meetings including Athletics and Transportation and Parking. Discussion items included:

- The start of classroom construction is next Monday
- South Perry Street parking lot will be designated faculty/staff
- The indoor practice facility is scheduled to be complete in July 2015.
- The Marching Virginians practice facility is starting construction.
- There was a conversation about employee who enrolled in a graduate class and was asked to buy a student parking pass. This was an isolated case.
- Parking services is trying to clarify language for parking on campus from 2:00 am – 6:00 am.
- Echoing Mr. Purdy, Mr. Chan encouraged commission members to complete the transportation survey.

Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah reported that:

- The University council for Faculty Affairs is still working on Presidential Memorandum 281 on international travel.
- UCIA approved the voluntary form for study abroad.
- The Language and Culture Institute is traveling to 11 countries to recruit students. Cranwell reported an increase in undergraduates this fall, primarily from China, Korea, and India.
- The Outreach and International affairs alumni awards are still open; three are awarded by UCIA.
- The Steger Center will host one symposium a year. A search is underway for a global education office director
- UCIA is updating its bylaws.

Graduate School Update: Dr. Karen DePauw

Dr. DePauw noted that the Graduate School also offers the Graduate Alumni Achievement award. The award is presented at the May commencement.

We will invite Ms. Marin Riegger, Graduate School Child Care Coordinator, to a future meeting. Ms. Ashley Francis will be reporting on the child care initiative at the next Board of Visitor meeting.

We conduct three graduate student surveys, one entrance survey, a mid-term survey, and an exit survey. Dr. DePauw has reviewed some of the surveys. She is looking at data from the admissions survey to determine why people attend Virginia Tech and why people choose not to.

The Graduate School is continuing to move forward on the electronic signature systems and digital initiatives. The application system is running smoothly. Dr. DePauw thanked Ms. Janice Austin, the STL staff and all the people who've worked hard to implement these systems.

Inclusive VT: Dr. DePauw is serving on an executive council chaired by the president and provost. The council is putting together initiatives to achieve increased inclusion and diversity. Six council coordinators are charged with assisting the council as well as implementing some of the initiatives. The vice presidents and deans on the council have been asked to develop three initiatives by November 21. Dr. DePauw and the commission discussed some ideas for the initiatives and Dr. DePauw will keep the commission informed as the council moves forward. Dr. DePauw encouraged commission member to send her their ideas and/or let her know if they would like to be involved in the effort.

Old Business: None

New Business: The Discontinuance of the MS in Dairy Science and the MS in Horticulture was presented for a first reading. Commission members suggested a few edits which will be communicated to the authors of the resolutions.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach on behalf of

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