

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

November 16, 2016

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Karen DePauw (ex officio), Dr. Sally Paulson (Chair), Dr. Lujean Baab, Dr. Rajesh Bagchi (for Dr. Linda Wallace), Dr. Sudip Bhattacharjee, Dr. Nancy Bodenhorn, Ms. Chelsea Corkins, Dr. Kevin Edgar, Dr. William Huckle, Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Ms. Erin Lavender-Stott, Dr. Kathy Lu, Mr. Brett Netto, Ms. Tara Reel, Ms. Kim Robbins, Dr. Scott Salom, Ms. Libbie Sonnier-Netto, Ms. Gina French (for Dr. Robert Sumichrast), Dr. Tyler Walters (ex officio), and Dr. Ying Zhou.

Absent with Notification: Dr. Lujean Baab, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Rachel Holloway (ex officio), and Dr. Annie Pearce.

Absent without Notification: Dr. Charlene Eska and Dr. Zhiwu Xie,

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Muhammed Hajj, Dr. Roger Harris, Dr. Rolf Mueller, Dr. Dane Webster, and Mr. Lei Zhang.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Paulson at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes from November 2, 2016

The minutes were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The committee met last week. Dr. DePauw noted that a future meeting will be held to discuss neuroscience and TBMH and then GCC will review the degree proposals. The minutes were accepted by the Commission.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

There was no report.

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

Dr. Huckle provided the following update:

DRSCAP held its third meeting of the semester on Monday, Nov 7, 2016. To update on the matters brought before us this semester:

- Grade cut-off policy on repeating courses — Dr. Blieszner and Janice Austin are continuing to consider where clarification is needed and the optimal language to accomplish it.
- Closely related persons serving on grad student advisory committees – To be discussed with the full CGS&P to ascertain priority and prospect of reviving the withdrawn Resolution 2014-15K.
- Process for approval and expectations for service on graduate advisory committees — To be discussed at next DRSCAP meeting, 11/28/16.
- Process for graduate student review of advisors — not discussed as yet.
- Diversity training for graduate students — Our understanding from those who attended the last CGS&P meeting was that any such training would utilize newly-identified or -developed resources, rather than an adaptation of the existing undergraduate module. Additional input from CGS&P would be helpful on this matter.

The Commission members considered whether an ongoing discussion of the topic of closely related persons serving on graduate student advisory committees should be held. Ms. Sonnier-Netto has a form used in her program that she will share with DRSCAP members. Further consideration of the topic will be made by DRSCAP.

Dr. DePauw asked that DRSCAP continue to explore the possibility that diversity training will be supported outside of Diversity.edu. Dr. DePauw gave a charge that the ethics requirement process be reviewed in consideration of an independent diversity training program.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

The report was deferred until next meeting.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

The report was deferred until next meeting.

University Library Committee

The report was deferred until the next meeting.

Faculty Senate

The report was deferred until the next meeting.

Student Government Association (SGA)

The report was deferred until the next meeting.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Paulson attended the University Council meeting. The proposed Resolution for the Establishment of a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech was deferred. The Provost will call a meeting to facilitate the process of how the resolution will move forward.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw reported that a new college mentor award will be given in the spring. Additional materials are available on Scholar. We don't have time to discuss the impact of the political election, however, she urged everyone to be aware of the impact on our students.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Dr. Mueller provided a briefing about Shandong University and the VT relationship. He gave an overview of the new campus and the building that will house the VT programs. China is funding the enterprise with no funds flowing from VT to Shandong. Initially 3-2 programs will be offered in engineering. The first freshman class is expected to begin in the fall, 2018.

The Resolution to Establish a Horticulture Major within the Master of Science in Life Sciences Degree was presented by Dr. Harris, department head. There will be some curriculum changes as described by Dr. Harris. The resolution will move forward to the Faculty Senate for review. A vote will be taken by CGS&P at the next meeting.

Dr. DePauw introduced the history of the iPhD beginning two-three years ago at VT. She noted in evaluating the proposal, the degree must stand alone and not be available in a singular department. She advised everyone that the commission members serve as an admission committee in the evaluation of the proposal. Mr. Zhang presented his interdisciplinary proposal, Supporting K12 Biology Learning with Interactive Science Storytelling in Immersive Virtual Reality. The proposal was approved by the Commission.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment: The meeting was 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