

## **MINUTES**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

**December 7, 2016**

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Graduate School Conference Room**

**Present:** Dr. Sally Paulson (Chair), Dr. Lujean Baab, Dr. Rajesh Bagchi, Dr. Sudip Bhattacharjee, Dr. Nancy Bodenhorn, Ms. Chelsea Corkins, Dr. Kevin Edgar, Dr. Charlene Eska, Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Ms. Erin Lavender-Stott, Dr. Bill Reynolds (for Dr. Kathy Lu), Mr. Brett Netto, Dr. Annie Pearce, Ms. Libbie Sonnier-Netto, and Dr. Kent Nakamoto (for Dr. Robert Sumichrast).

**Absent with Notification:** Dr. Karen DePauw (ex officio), Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Dr. William Huckle, Ms. Tara Reel, Ms. Kim Robbins, Dr. Scott Salom, Dr. Zhiwu Xie, and Dr. Ying Zhou.

**Absent without Notification:** Dr. Tyler Walters (ex officio).

**Visitors and Invited Guests:** Ms. Janice Austin and Dr. Roger Harris.

### **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 16, 2016**

The minutes were approved as presented.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Graduate Curriculum Committee**

The committee will meet tomorrow.

#### **Graduate Student Appeals Committee**

There was no report.

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

Dr. Huckle provided the following update.

#### **Closely related persons serving on grad student advisory committees –**

Dr. Blieszner gave us synopsis of deliberations from 2014 and beyond, including specific policy/procedure ideas that were previously considered. The committee also reviewed a letter kindly shared with us by Commission member Libbie Sonnier-Netto, disclosing to her a spousal relationship between advisors in her graduate program, as an example of the form such a disclosure could take. A

consensus arose in the DRSCAP discussion that we not attempt to create a detailed, all-encompassing 'don't do this' type of document regarding potential conflicts of interests, but rather consider crafting more generalized statements for both students and faculty, describing a) each party's rights, responsibilities and expectations in the formation and operation of advisory committees, and b) what forms of recourse are available to students if problems arise. DRSCAP offers to re-write pertinent sections of the Graduate Catalog and the Grad School Expectations document to be more explicit about student and advisory committee responsibilities, possibly merging into this effort the process for approval and expectations for service on graduate advisory committees, to this point discussed separately by the committee. We would appreciate feedback from CGS&P as to whether this would be a worthwhile effort.

The Commission supported the DRSCAP recommendation and endorsed updates to the website, Graduate Catalog, and the Expectations document through clearly defined responsibilities. Additional recommended language will be submitted by Commission members to DRSCAP.

### **Diversity training for graduate students —**

DRSCAP was asked for recommendations on two matters: a yes/no regarding whether training in diversity and inclusion should be a standard component of graduate student orientation, and, if so, how it should be implemented. In view of the university's Principles of Community, there was strong sentiment in DRSCAP that some form of diversity/inclusiveness training would be as beneficial and appropriate for incoming graduate students as for undergraduates and that there should be no easy way to opt-out. We discussed several variables about delivery: should such training be accomplished in a manner similar to the Ethics training, to be documented on the Plan of Study, or by another means to assure delivery earlier in a student's program? Should content and means of implementation be determined at department/program level? We agreed that we should steer away from letting unqualified individuals develop and deliver content, but that it would be desirable to have multiple approved paths available among which students could choose to satisfy a training requirement. We ended with the realization that we should ask Menah Pratt-Clarke to visit DRSCAP for ideas and guidance and about appropriate training mechanism(s) — go outside for a professional product? Look to a corporate model?

### **Constituency Updates**

#### Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Ms. Corkins reported the fall programs are now complete. Caps and gowns are still available for rent. Research Symposium abstracts will be due in January with the event being held in March. The final Assembly will be held tomorrow night with the Assembly supporting a document similar to the Principles of Community.

#### Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Ms. Lavender-Stott reported on a case that has been presented from the Vet-Med School for investigation and is now back in the hands of the Vet-Med School.

#### University Library Committee

There was no report.

#### Faculty Senate

There was no report.

### Student Government Association (SGA)

There was no report.

### **University Council and Commission Updates**

Dr. Paulson attended the University Council meeting. CNRE had concerns with the previously submitted resolution. The Provost had a meeting with Alan Grant and a CNRE representative. Another Whereas was added to the resolution creating agreement on the resolution; the resolution was passed at University Council.

There were no other commission updates.

### **Graduate School Update**

There was no report.

### **Old Business**

The second reading of the Resolution to Establish a Horticulture Major within the Master of Science in Life Sciences Degree was presented. The resolution was approved.

### **New Business**

The new business item on the agenda was withdrawn.

### **Announcements**

A call was made for members of the new anti-bullying group. The members include: Rajesh Bagchi, Nancy Bodenhorn, Kevin Edgar, Brett Netto, Hannah Parks, and Annie Pearce. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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