

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

May 3, 2017

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, Dr. Sudip Bhattacharjee, Dr. Nancy Bodenhorn, Dr. Kevin Edgar, Dr. Charlene Eska, Dr. William Huckle, Ms. Alexandra Hyler, Ms. Erin Lavender-Stott, Dr. Kathy Lu, Mr. Brett Netto, Ms. Hannah Parks, Dr. Annie Pearce, Ms. Libbie Sonnier-Netto, Dr. Robert Sumichrast, Dr. Zhiwu Xie, and Dr. Ying Zhou.

Absent with Notification: Dr. Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Ms. Tara Reel, and Dr. Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent without Notification: None.

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Muhammed Hajj, and Dr. Audra VanWart.

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 April 19, 2017

The minutes were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Edgar reported the committee has met twice since the last meeting. Twenty-four course proposals have been approved, with four tabled. The minutes for the April 13th and the April 27th meetings were accepted by the Commission.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

There was no report.

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

Dr. Huckle deferred his report until old and new business.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Ms. Hyler reported a special election will be held in two weeks to determine the Vice President for next year. A full slate of officers will be announced shortly. Ms. Hyler has been elected as President for next year.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Ms. Lavender-Stott has completed two training events and has 15 new committee members to assist with hearings.

University Library Committee

Dr. Xie reported on the committee's activities for the year. A working group has been established to review the ETD process and how to best manage data. There is a concern that there is a lack of quality control of research data and a loss of data after graduation. Seven other institutions' practices were reviewed. VT Policy 13015 does not prescribe procedures and implementation. One recommendation for consideration is to develop a Graduate School policy that would define procedure and implementation for data management. Components of a Graduate School policy should include stewardship, retention, access, and compliance. Another consideration is to include a data management plan within the plan of study. The Library has a platform to accept the data. Ownership of data needs to be defined after graduation. Following the commission discussion, Dr. DePauw recommended the Library develop a pilot program for testing prior to finalizing policies and procedures. Dr. Xie will identify people to participate in a trial/pilot program.

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 this past Monday and there was no new or old business for CGS&P to report. The resolution for the ombudsperson was approved by all of the commissions. A sustainability report was given to the Council.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

Ms. Austin reported 182 doctoral and 570 masters students will participate in commencement in Blacksburg. In northern Virginia, 130 masters and 15-20 doctoral students will participate in commencement. Dr. DePauw reported the superintendent of public schools in Richmond will move to another position. He completed his dissertation at VT and has been accused of possible plagiarism. All further discussion will be held as confidential. Dr. DePauw extended her thanks to Dr. Paulson, Dr. Edgar, and Dr. Huckle for their leadership and to all of the commission members for their active participation throughout the year.

Old Business

Dr. Huckle reported on the status of the Resolution CGS&P 2016-17L to Include an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component in Graduate Education. The Faculty Senate Cabinet has reviewed the resolution draft and returned concerns for us to address prior to their decision to waive or discuss before the full Senate. DRSCAP discussed the Faculty Senate comments at its final meeting of the academic year (5/4/17) and plans to meet with the Faculty Senate Cabinet in June to present our response to their concerns. Ahead of this meeting, DRSCAP will gather additional information from the Office of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives and the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity regarding the rationale behind the resolution and resources available for its implementation. The resolution likely will be resubmitted to the Faculty Senate in the Fall.

Dr. Bodenhorn reported on the updated document for Expectations for Graduate Education, currently posted online (<http://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/expectations-for-graduate-education-overview.html>). Additional information is now included on conflict of interest, the student and the advisor, anti-bullying, and respectfulness. Language has been enhanced regarding the expectation that faculty support research and ethics education for students. The revisions were approved by the Commission.

New Business

Dr. Huckle introduced recommendations for TOEFL Minima for Admission and for Appointment of Students as GTA's. A set of edits of material on the Graduate School website was presented, supported by a review of TOEFL requirements at our SCHEV peer institutions and charts that depicted TOEFL total and speaking subscores for last year's VT international GTAs. Dr. DePauw noted that Graduate School staff would work with departments to create best practices for implementation of these recommendations. The recommendations were approved by the Commission for implementation with Graduate School admission practices for Fall, 2018.

Dr. Huckle extended his thanks to all of the DRSCAP members for their work throughout the year.

Dr. Edgar accepted the nomination as Chair of CGS&P for 2017-18. Dr. Bagchi accepted the nomination as Vice Chair of CGS&P for 2017-18.

Dr. Bodenhorn accepted the nomination as Chair of DRSCAP.

Announcements

Dr. Paulson extended her thanks to all of the Commission members for a successful year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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