

CGPSP Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2021

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Present: Madlyn Frisard, Barbara Hoopes, Coy Allen, Nathaniel Porter, Hannah Parks, Pengtao Yue, Paul Emmons, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Kayla Alward, Lujean Baab, Maruf Hoque, Richard Vari, Nancy Bodenhorn, Hypatia Alexandria, Hannah Upson, Montasir Abbas, Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Gabriela Carillo, Marcia Feuerstein, Chad Bolding

Absent with Notification: Ashley Shew (on leave),

Absent without Notification: Lesa Hanlin, Cliff Shaffer, Awad Abdelhalim, Robert Sumachrist, Emily Burns, Sabrina Sturgeon, Sara Hooshangi,

Visitors and Invited Guests: Janice Austin, Bill Huckle, April Myers, Kevin Edgar, Aubrey Knight, Jack Leff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm.

Members once again approved a motion to vote by objections and abstentions, assuming approval unless otherwise stated. This motion was made to accommodate the Zoom meeting format.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as-is.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from April 21, 2021 were approved as-is.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee - Bill Huckle

The GCC has approved the following:

New Courses:

- As-Is:
 - Fall 2021: NSEG 5104, RLCL 5014, ENGL 5214, ENGL 5624, ENGL 5674, ES 5004, ES 5104
- Pending Minor Revisions:
 - Summer 2021: APSC 2564, BIT 6424
 - Fall 2021: ENT 5024, ISE 5314, ISE 5104, ISE 5854, GRAD 5034, EDCI 6444, ENGL 5554, FREC 5024G, VM 8804, VM 8834, VM 8060
 - Spring 2022: ISE 5864, EDCO 6434

-Discontinued, effective Spring 2021:

- Course: EDCO 6454
- Major Concentration/Track:
 - Development, Aging and Repair (DAR)
 - Health Implementation and Science (HISC)
- Certificate:

- Urban Hydrology and Stormwater Management (MENC)
- Traffic Control and Operations (TCOC)
- Transportation Systems Engineering (TSEC)
- Air Transportation Systems (ATRC)
- Treatment Process Engineering (TPEC)
- Water Quality Management (WQMC)
- Civil Infrastructure Systems (IEC)

Renamed, effective Summer 2021:

- Major Concentration/Track:
 - Tissue Engineering and Reparative Medicine (TERM)
 - Public Health and Implementation Science (PHIM)

New Certificate:

- Mission Engineering (MENC), first term and year to enroll Fall 2021, first term and year to graduate Spring 2022

Graduate Student Appeals Committee - Karen DePauw

The final open appeal has been reviewed by the committee, and a recommendation has been sent. The letter to the student is being finalized and will be resolved within the week.

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

DRSCAP had their final meeting of the semester last week. They have written a draft proposal for Retroactive Degree Procedures, which is posted with Dean DePauw's comments in the SharePoint.

Some issues to consider include the signatories needed for older requests, where a department's faculty may have changed significantly. Likewise, future requests may require signatures from the new Graduate School Dean. In these cases, the new diploma will have the signatures of current faculty members with the stipulation that the degree was intended to be conferred in a past year. Members also requested further detail of what documentation might be required for students requesting because of health or financial need.

The commission discussed cases in which a retroactive degree may be requested. While some are administrative errors, others involve students who may have passed and completed their exams, but submitted their ETD (Electronic Thesis or Dissertation) late. The new procedures hope to reduce these cases (or reduce the time between intended conferral and actual conferral) by keeping in regular contact with students. Dean DePauw noted that in her full term as VP and Dean of Graduate Studies, she estimates to have reviewed less than 10 retroactive degree requests, 3 or 4 of which are current. She also noted that the current draft procedure would have been helpful in all of these cases.

DRSCAP also continues to review the Student Code of Conduct and how it applies to Graduate Students, both inside and outside of the Blacksburg community. The committee is considering the consequences of personal behavior on academic standing, the reporting structure and decision-making process, and considerations that may exempt graduate students from the current Code of Conduct, including age and physical location.

Formation of a working group this Fall was proposed to continue conversation. Representatives from VTCSOM, VMCVM, and Northern Virginia should be included in the working group. Further data is needed on current conduct cases involving graduate students, and how conduct systems interact with other systems and departments.

Kevin Edgar noted that the Posthumous Degree Procedures proposal continues development, with sections added for VMCVM, VTCSOM, and undergraduate procedures. The proposal will go to governance for review in the Fall.

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Old Business

Resolution 2020-21F: Discontinuing the Doctor of Philosophy PhD in Education Research and Evaluation (EDRE)

2nd Reading

The resolution was approved as-is

Resolution 2020-21G: VTSCOM Grade Mode Change - Aubrey Knight

2nd Reading

The resolution was approved as-is

Commission Chair / Vice Chair / GCC Chair Elections

The current candidates for CGPSP 2021-2022 are as follows:

Chair: Marcia Feuerstein

Vice Chair: Pengtao Yue

GCC Chair: Coy Allen

The commission has approved an exception to the typical 2-person structure (which includes a Chair and a Vice Chair who also acts as GCC Chair) to allow Pengtao Yue to continue his eligibility for a Chair position next year, while providing a GCC Chair when Pengtao is on leave in the Fall.

All candidates were approved without opposition.

New Business

Graduate School Updates - Karen DePauw

Academic Updates:

- SPIA will once again offer a Master of PIA in Blacksburg, effective Fall 2021. The MPIA was once offered at both campuses before moving to Northern Virginia exclusively. This change was made without the need for formal governance approval.

General Updates:

- Dean DePauw commended the Northern Virginia members for stepping up their participation in both the commission and other working groups and committees.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly – Maruf Hoque and Jack Leff

Maruf presented the results of the Cost of Living Survey conducted by GSA this Fall. They received roughly 1,100 raw responses, which pared down to 740 viable responses. Of these 740, roughly 600 were from Blacksburg, 30 from Roanoke, and 70 from Northern Virginia.

From their results, the GSA gives several recommendations:

1. Offer multi-year assistantships to match the degree program completion timelines
2. Offer 12 month assistantships
3. Evaluate equity of fees with services provided
4. Raise minimum stipends to match cost of living

Broadly, the survey found that in Fall 2020:

- 987 students are making less than \$2,136/mo (the minimum cost of living)
- 1,454 students are making between \$2,136 - \$2,200/mo
- 72% of students making near or below the minimum cost of living average

The survey accounted for rent, utilities, taxes, university fees, transportation costs, insurance, and food (calculated at \$200/mo, but students reported spending \$329/mo on average). The study was adjusted to calculate the CoL for a single student, and does not take into account students supporting families.

There was some discussion about the viability of the recommendations, but they were affirmed to be in line with the recommendations from the earlier Graduate Education Task Force.

Maruf Hoque will be retiring from his Chair at GSA, and introduced the new Chair (of the newly named GPSS), Jack Leff.

Graduate Student Honor System – Kayla Alward

There have been a total of 7 honor cases this semester. 2 were recently closed, and 2 are currently open.

University Library Committee – Nathaniel Porter

The Library is looking into how they can best support research, specifically in regard to sponsored programs, including space management changes post-covid. Thanks to students' ingenuity, group study spaces are now available for students studying for finals.

Faculty Senate - Montasir Abbas

Scott Midkiff presented changes to Google workspace for the University, which includes an end to the unlimited storage access previously offered. Storage allocations have not yet been set.

Student Government Association – Hannah Upsom

SGA continues to work on changes related to their new senate.

Board of Visitors – Sabrina Sturgeon

Representative absent

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council - Madlyn Frisard

The UC voted to approve the resolution from the VTCOM, which will change the name of the

Department of Interprofessionalism to the Department of Healthcare Innovation and Implementation Science. This resolution will go to the BOV in June.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Lujean Baab

Elections for the Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate are now closed, and nominees have been alerted. The first meeting has also been scheduled.

Commission on Student Affairs

No updates

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Rachel Holloway

CUSP has convened for the academic year.

Announcements and Discussion

Dean Karen DePauw gave her closing statement to the commission, as this is her last year of service.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

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Respectfully submitted, +

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Roxanne Kehr +

On behalf of Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D. +

Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies+