

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

April 6, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

Present: Montasir Abbas, Coy Allen, Kayla Alward, Ben Beiter (proxy for Jordan Westcott), Nancy Bodenhorn, Amanda Covey, Christina DiMarino, Joseph Eifert, Marcía Feuerstein, Chip Frazier, Bob Hicok, Rachel Holloway, Barbara Hoopes, Maruf Hoque, Jack Leff (proxy for Kait Malewicz), Hannah Parks, Roan Parrish, Nathaniel Porter, Cliff Shaffer, Alina Valop, Scott Weimer, Pengtao Yue

Absent with notification: Kait Malewicz, Aimée Surprenant, Jordan Westcott

Absent without notification: Laura Belmonte, Rebecca Pauly, Hannah Upson, Tyler Walters (Ex Officio)

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Jo Culligan, Kevin Edgar, Maggie Fernandes, Cathy Grimes, Bill Huckle, Carrie Mayer, Phillip Miskovic, April Myers, Ellen Plummer, Laura Sands, Damien Williams, Chloe (no last name given)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Feuerstein at 3:31 p.m. A quorum was verified.

Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was adopted.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from March 16, 2022 were approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee-Coy Allen

The committee met on March 24. Dr. Allen reported that the GCC approved 25 new courses. GCC report was voted on and approved.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee-

Dr. Huckle report for Dean Surprenant. No appeals pending.

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

Met on 3/23. They worked on revisions to the Task Force Representation Policy based on feedback. Members were in contact with the SSD office regarding graduate students with disabilities. They have been researching issues such as privacy, the need for a graduate school liaison with the SSD office, and the different issues between PhD students versus Masters students.

The English Proficiency Validation issue came up regarding exchange students. Right now the accepted tests are the IELTS and TOEFL. The question is can Duolingo be accepted as well. It's more accessible and has been used for undergraduates. Since exchange students are not usually in a GTA role, it was suggested to look into using it. One downside is students admitted with Duolingo haven't had time to show the success with it as a testing criterion. At this point, it is merely a suggestion to the graduate school. A commission guest asked if there is a suggested level regarding the scores of the TOEFL versus Duolingo. The response was that they haven't gotten that far on the issue.

Old Business

A. Resolution 2021-22C (Task Force Representation Policy) Second Reading

Dr. Hoopes reported the resolution was revised and a motion was made to approve and move to discussion. Dr. Hoopes went over some of the revisions and reported that the policy is now more succinct. Dr. Edgar concurred on what Dr. Hoopes said and reminded the commission that this policy has a purpose.

A member brought up a concern about the 25% stakeholders piece. He said it is not about size but more about perspective. He suggested stating that the stakeholder portion should reflect different stakeholder communities represented.

Another member spoke about this being offered as a policy and said there is a problem with how we are forming task forces, and this policy is not a good solution for the problem.

A member said the primary need is for adequate representation. Dr. Edgar mentioned the resolution will do no harm and will only do good. He said they can replace the percentage requirement with language such as proportional. A member said that it contradicts what we've done in shared governance. Dr. Hoopes responded by asking what would be a better way to accomplish what is wanted. The member said they would have to convince the president and provost that we have a say in membership of those task forces. Each senate and every caucus have the opportunity to place a member on a task force. University Council can evaluate the membership of these task forces to see if it's done appropriately.

A member suggested a friendly amendment to add the word *historically* when referring to being appointed by administration or mostly by administration. Another member responded when there is a meeting or commission, the purpose is not to come in with a certain agenda that people would want to vote so their interest goes through. The point should be people with different ideas and points of view so they can collectively come up with something new. This member believes the issue is not going to be solved by having a certain percentage of stakeholders on the task force.

A member asked if the concern is that there are students on the task force even though they are a primary affected stakeholder. A member responded with students needed disciplinary knowledge for certain task forces and the previous member who asked about the concerns responded by stating that plenty of students have disciplinary knowledge. A member said that voting and passing as we go could have unintended outcomes.

A member said commission should not start with a discussion. We are not debating a problem but a resolution. Another member asked if the concerned member could work with the students offline to find a solution. The answer was yes. Marcía asked if the resolution should be tabled for another meeting. The answer was a vote on a friendly amendment to language change. After a vote, there were 19 yes and 3 no to the amendment change. The amended resolution was then voted on, and there were 17 yes and 5 no.

New Business

A. Interdisciplinary PhD Program Proposal--William Huckle / Joanna Culligan (first reading)

Proposal was heard and suggestions/questions/feedback was given.

Graduate School Updates-Dean Aimée Surprenant (William Huckle)

A. General Updates

Dean Surprenant was unable to attend. Her updates are posted in Sharepoint.

B. Faculty Handbook Revisions-Ellen Plummer

This will need to be rescheduled.

Constituency Updates-Marcía Feuerstein

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Jack Leff reported they are allocating program funds for student programs.

Graduate Honor System

Kayla Alward reported there are 7 active cases and 1 in collaboration with the vet school. They are looking at protocols because this is not a frequent occurrence.

University Library Committee

No report

Faculty Senate

No report

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report

Board of Visitors Representative

The BOV met on Sunday and Monday (April 3 and 4). The General Assembly has not passed a budget, so there is no update on the tuition/fee outcome. Next year's student representative was elected. Anna Buhle will begin on July 1. Additional notes are posted in Sharepoint.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council-Marcía Feuerstein

Reported that cost of living resolution was passed. The renaming of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the resolution to revise the system of shared governance and new council constitution and bylaws were all approved.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

No updates

Commission on Student Affairs

No updates

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

No updates

Announcements

The next Commission meeting will be April 20, 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Mayer

On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.

Dean for Graduate Education

