MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
February 5, 2020
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: John Hole, Chair, Mehdi Ahmadian, Coy Allen, Hani Awni, Lujean Baab, Nancy Bodenhorn, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Paul Emmons, Madlyn Frisard, Cynthia Hampton, Lesa Hanlin, Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Barbara Hoopes, Alexis Hruby, Joseph Kozak, Anurag Mantha, Hannah Parks, Nathaniel Porter, and Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent with notification: Marcia Feuerstein and Robert Sumichrast.

Absent without notification: Maruf Hoque, Sarah Karpanty, Cliff Shaffer, and Ashley Shew.

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Bill Huckle, and Ryan King.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hole at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was verified.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of December 4, 2019 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Frisard presented the Graduate Curriculum Committee minutes of January 23, 2020. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. DePauw had no new appeals to report.

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

Dr. Baab reported the draft of the resolution to be read later at today's meeting was completed at the last DRSCAP meeting. She has also accepted Mr. Awni's resignation from the committee. Dr. Hole requested a volunteer to fill this vacancy. Dr. Bodenhorn agreed to again serve on the committee.

Old Business

The second reading of Ms. DeSoto's iPhD proposal was held and discussion followed. The proposal was approved.

New Business

Dr. Hole introduced the proposed changes to shared university governance, including the draft characteristics and principles that are guiding the changes. Discussions regarding the impact to the commissions has not yet occurred. Dr. Hole asked for feedback from the commission members. Students have a concern about the time they have available to participate in governance. A suggestion was made to provide assistantships for students participating in governance. Dr. DePauw asked the commission to be prepared to discuss the proposed characteristics at the next meeting.

The first reading of the Resolution on Revoking Graduate Degrees was presented by Dr. Baab. The purpose of the resolution is to provide in writing the reasons for the revocation of a degree. The resolution will also need to be reviewed by legal counsel. Additional revisions will be made by DRSCAP prior to further discussion at the next CGPSP meeting.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw asked Dr. Huckle to provide a SCHEV report at the next meeting. Dr. DePauw met with faculty and staff at the Northern Virginia Center last week. An additional 350 students will need to enroll in northern Virginia for fall, 2021, to meet fall budget expectations. While this is unlikely, a plan needs to be developed to accomplish the enrollment growth expected over the next few years. A vast array of student services needs to be provided to serve the Innovation campus students. The MEng does not require the GRE for admission. The PPEA decision that would redesign the campus should be available in March. The current site alignment process is contingent on the outcome of the PPEA. Phase I of the site alignment process has been sent to the President. Phase II will capture the information on space needs from the Deans. Phase III will be the space planning and preparation and may occur later this year. Finally, the relocation and moving plan will need to be developed.

The following notification of academic change was announced:

Architecture has been given a new CIP Code that is STEM OPT eligible.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Mr. Awni had no report.

Graduate Honor System

Mr. Mantha had no report.

University Library Committee

There was no report.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Ahmadian reported discussions are occurring about creating a senate for A/P faculty. Faculty Senate also discussed the proposed enrollment model.

Student Government Association

There was no report.

Board of Visitors

Mr. King had no report.

University Council and Commission Updates

The governance model was discussed at University Council. Also, a discussion continued about faculty papers being stored in the library.

Dr. Holloway announced the next meeting of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies will be this coming Monday. A discussion will be held about academic relief at the undergraduate level.

Announcements

The Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education will have a final report soon. The Graduate Mental Health Group will provide a report to the Commission in March.

Dr. DePauw will retire on August 1, 2020. She has agreed to remain in her position until the search is completed.

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

Virginia Tech Principles of Shared Governance: a draft document from the President's Committee on Governance (9/18/19 version updated on 1/9/20)

Shared governance is the process by which the University community shares responsibility for reaching collective decisions on matters of policy and procedure. We believe that shared governance is essential to Virginia Tech's mission as "an inclusive community of knowledge, discovery, and creativity dedicated to improving the quality of life and the human condition within the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the world." We further believe that shared governance is the means by which we organize the components of the university into an interdependent whole; that collaborative decision-making is the foundation of strategic and coordinated effort; and that shared governance should operate within the framework of the following principles at every level of Virginia Tech's various locations:

1) *Respect, collaboration, and trust*

We recognize that the Board of Visitors, administrators, faculty, staff, and students have differing roles, scopes of authority, and accountability; that these differences are necessary and productive; and that a mutuality of respect for each other and our varying roles and responsibilities is essential for good-faith dialogue, collaborative decision-making, and trust in the processes of governance.

2) *Clarity of roles and authority*

We commit to maintaining a shared understanding of Virginia Tech's system of governance, including clear guidelines for our separate and mutual areas of responsibility for determination, recommendation, and consultation on particular matters, and recognize that the roles and authority of the Board of Visitors, administrators, faculty, staff, and students can vary depending on context and topic.

3) *Democratic processes*

We will employ democratic processes, including the use of representative bodies, to ensure that the views of all constituencies are reflected in our decisions and increase the likelihood that a course of action will be broadly supported and implemented. All revisions to and the creation of new initiatives, policies, and programs will be carried out within our formal system of governance.

4) Inclusion and diversity

We believe that a diverse community of people and perspectives is necessary for the creation of effective and fair policies and procedures and will work to ensure equality of access to the positions and venues of governance.

5) *Communication and transparency*

In order to capture and reflect the scope of opinions across our various constituencies and locations, we expect honest and respectful communication; that every component of governance will maintain clearly defined channels for reciprocal communication within and between constituencies; and that we will reach our decisions in a transparent manner such that the various constituencies are aware of how decisions are made and the rationale for those decisions.

6) *Efficiency and effectiveness*

We will conduct deliberations and make decisions in a manner that is timely and appropriate to the issue and periodically evaluate the performance of shared governance in order to improve its operation and adapt it to evolving conditions.

7) *Accountability*

While recognizing that the Board of Visitors and President are legally accountable for the condition and operation of the University, we affirm that when acting as participants in governance we are accountable to each other, as individuals and constituencies, for our statements and decisions; that administrative rejection of shared governance recommendations should be unusual and for compelling reasons that are publicly conveyed and subject to collective response; and that in the rare instances exigent circumstances require University leaders to act outside the structure of shared governance, they will explain the exigent circumstances and discuss the action or actions taken in open forums and in a timely manner.

8) *Commitment*

We believe that shared governance requires a commitment of good will on the part of all participants, the broad recognition of shared governance as an important activity, and sufficient resources for the effective operation of shared governance.