

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

October 2, 2019

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: John Hole, Chair, Mehdi Ahmadian, Coy Allen, Hani Awni, Lujean Baab, Charles Nichols (for Nancy Bodenhorn), Karen DePauw (ex officio), Paul Emmons, Marcia Feuerstein, Madlyn Frisard, Cynthia Hampton, Lesa Hanlin, Alexis Hruby, Maruf Hoque, Anurag Mantha, Hannah Parks, Nathaniel Porter, and Ashley Shew.

Absent with notification: Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Barbara Hoopes, Cliff Shaffer, and Robert Sumichrast.

Absent without notification: Sarah Karpanty, Joseph Kozak, and Tyler Walters (ex officio).

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

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of September 18, 2019 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Frisard presented the Graduate Curriculum Committee minutes of September 26, 2019. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

There was no report.

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

Dr. Hole requested an additional faculty volunteer as a DRSCAP committee member; Dr. Allen agreed to serve. Dr. Baab agreed to chair the committee for this coming year. Dr. Edgar will be the Graduate School representative to the committee.

Old Business

Dr. Hole reported the Graduate Student Mental Health Committee was established through the CGS&P last academic year and the committee's work is continuing this year. The committee is charged to identify and reduce stressors for students. Additionally, policies that may cause stressors will be identified and evaluated. Ms. Hampton provided an overview of the committee's activities and provided a document that

summarizes stressors and causes. The committee has met with the Graduate School Ombudsperson, Bryan Hanson, to learn more about student stressors. An additional consideration is to identify the many student support services available on campus, as well as assistance through departments and faculty. There is alignment with this initiative and the more global mental health initiative led by the Council of Graduate Schools.

New Business

Dr. Hole introduced the request from the ad hoc President's Committee on Governance. The committee has established the Virginia Tech Principles of Shared Governance and is requesting feedback from the CGPSP membership. A discussion of the principles was held, and written comments should be sent to Dr. Hole by October 7, 2019. He will provide written feedback to the committee.

Dr. Huckle announced there will be a new iPhD proposal for review at the next meeting. He will be seeking CGPSP members for a review of the proposal prior to the student's presentation at the meeting.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw reported several departments are making a decision to not use GRE's for admission while employing holistic admission practices. NACAA has changed their code of ethics and admissions deadlines, allowing early deposits and flexible deadlines at the undergraduate level. The Graduate School is not changing the April 15th deadline. There is a resolution forthcoming about religious accommodations. Dr. DePauw is encouraging a discussion from a faculty and student perspective when the resolution comes forward. Pronouns will soon be identified in Banner.

There was no notification of academic changes.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Mr. Awni reported the second monthly meeting will be held tomorrow. The Principles of Shared Governance will be discussed.

Graduate Honor System

Mr. Mantha reported there are four open cases, two remaining from last year. Dr. DePauw noted the importance of pedagogy in valued collaboration. She will address this further throughout the year.

University Library Committee

There was no committee report. Dr. Porter noted that a series of five workshops are being offered by the Library. Open Access Week will be held soon.

Faculty Senate

There was no report.

Student Government Association

There was no report.

Board of Visitors

There was no report.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Hole reported University Council met last week. He noted several of the commissions are working on the same topics. The Commonwealth Campaign was highlighted.

Mr. Awni reported the last meeting of the Commission on Student Affairs focused on shared governance.

Dr. DePauw shared the following Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies report from Dr. Holloway.

We discussed the Principles of Governance. The discussion focused primarily on next steps needed to bring the principles into action. We noted the transmission letter indicated a plan for doing so.

While not discussed at CUSP, the Academic Policies Committee, a standing committee of CUSP, will begin a review of academic policies as recommended by the mental health taskforce. Robin Panneton chairs that committee. They will be seeking input from a broad range of constituencies. We should be sure we have representation for graduate when policies impact both groups.

Announcements

Dr. DePauw announced Indigenous Peoples Day will be October 14th, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., on the Drillfield. She encouraged everyone to participate.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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