

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

October 16, 2019

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: John Hole, Chair, Mehdi Ahmadian, Coy Allen, Lujean Baab, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Marcia Feuerstein, Madlyn Frisard, Lesa Hanlin, Barbara Hoopes, Alexis Hruby, Maruf Hoque, Sarah Karpanty, Joseph Kozak, Anurag Mantha, Hannah Parks, Cliff Shaffer, Ashley Shew, Robert Sumichrast, and Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent with notification: Paul Emmons, Charles Nichols (for Nancy Bodenhorn), Cynthia Hampton, and Rachel Holloway (ex officio).

Absent without notification: Hani Awni and Nathaniel Porter.

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

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 October 2, 2019 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Frisard presented the Graduate Curriculum Committee minutes of October 10, 2019. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. DePauw has no current cases under review.

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

Dr. Baab reported on the last two meetings of DRSCAP. A written report has been presented and will be available on the SharePoint site. Anita Waltz will be invited at a later date to attend a CGPSP meeting to discuss open access.

Old Business

Dr. Hole presented the CGPSP response to the Shared Principles of Governance that was submitted last week to the Governance Task Force. This document will be reviewed by the Governance Task Force at a future meeting. Following this review and the continued work of the task force, a revised version of the Shared Principles will be distributed later this year.

New Business

Dr. Edgar presented an update on the work of the Graduate Education Task Force. The Provost requested the task force to evaluate our standing as a graduate school and to consider our position in comparison to other graduate schools. Data is being collected to compare and support the task force's hypotheses. Fifteen other land grant institutions are being reviewed and survey data is being collected. Stipends vary considerably and impact enrollment. It was suggested improved advertisement of fellowships could assist in attracting students. The recommendations are expected to be available in January.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw and Dr. Walters commented on the open access discussion being pursued by a subcommittee of the Commission on Research. CGPSP may receive updates in the future about this important work.

Dr. DePauw asked Mr. Mantha, as a graduate student, to present his role in improving food security at Virginia Tech. A new organization, Food Access for Students, has been created. This will give students with a financial emergency the opportunity to request assistance. Dr. DePauw has kicked off the fund-raising initiative with a \$500 donation. Mr. King will communicate with the Faculty Senate. Myers-Lawson has sent the fund-raising initiative to its faculty and staff. Dr. Ahmadian has offered his help in circulating information about the fund-raising effort. Dr. Sumichrast and Dr. Baab will also distribute information to their academic areas. Dr. DePauw noted there are food bank options in town as well as the option of the Dean of Students emergency fund. Students are reluctant to request assistance because of being stigmatized. Also, international students cannot accept public assistance because of their international status. Dr. Sumichrast suggested that long-term expansion of the program might include being a part of the CVC.

Dr. DePauw has confirmation that we have homeless graduate students. She finds this devastating. Students have verified with her in class that they know other students facing this hardship.

Dr. DePauw reminded everyone that this week is homecoming. The VT football organization has given seventy free tickets to Roanoke and metro Washington students for this weekend's game.

A \$1.5B capital campaign for Virginia Tech was kicked off last Thursday night.

Dr. DePauw will meet with the recovery group on campus, following a meeting with student representatives this past week. The recovery group serves students, staff, and administrators. Dr. Frisard noted that meetings will be held in the near future for recovery allies.

Dr. DePauw announced that micro-credentials and badging are being explored with communicating science and consideration will be given for pilot testing later in the semester. Students would demonstrate skills and the faculty would certify the student's knowledge prior to a badge being awarded.

Graduate program faculty for committee service will be an online process by the end of fall semester.

The general audience abstract, as part of the ETD, will be made accessible through a searchable website this fall. Prior year abstracts will also be added in the future to the database.

Preferred pronouns are being added to Banner as part of the admission process. This is a voluntary process for the student and will assist in accurate addressing of the individual.

Dr. DePauw had one notification of academic change. The M.S. in Biomedical Technology Development and Management (BTDM) degree in the College of Science and in affiliation with Georgetown is officially discontinued.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

There was no report.

Graduate Honor System

Mr. Mantha reported there are five open cases.

University Library Committee

Dr. Walters announced the committee meets tomorrow.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Ahmadian had no report.

Student Government Association

There was no report.

Board of Visitors

Mr. King reported he will meet on Friday with Drs. Clarke and Pinkney to discuss disability and SSD. Accommodations that will assist graduate students may differ from the needs of undergraduate students. A prior report will be considered in exploring the conversation. In particular, Dr. DePauw noted that accommodation needs may differ for GA's, RA's, and GTA's based on employment rather than student status.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Hole had no announcements from the last University Council meeting.

There were no other commission updates.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

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