

## **MINUTES**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

**January 17, 2018**

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Graduate School Conference Room**

**Present:** Kevin Edgar (Chair), Alan Abrahams, Lujean Baab, Rajesh Bagchi, Sudip Bhattacharjee, Nancy Bodenhorn, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Lesa Hanlin, Eric Hill, Rachel Holloway, Erin Lavender-Stott, Peizhen Lu, Brett Netto, Sally Paulson, Annie Pearce, Kevin Carlson (for Robert Sumichrast), Martina Svyantek, and Zhiwu Xie.

**Absent with notification:** Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Jacob Barney, Alex Hyler, Xin Luo, and Hannah Parks.

**Absent without notification:** Julie Billingsley and Tyler Walters (ex officio).

**Visitors and invited guests:** Janice Austin, Bill Huckle, Libbie Sonnier-Netto, and Kenneth Wong.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of December 6, 2017 were approved as presented.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Graduate Curriculum Committee**

The minutes of December 14, 2017 were accepted as presented. Dr. Bagchi reported on the many proposals that were reviewed, revised, and/or tabled.

#### **Graduate Student Appeals Committee**

Dr. DePauw reported the committee has completed its work. There are no new appeals as of today.

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

Dr. Bodenhorn reported a representative from COED will meet with DRSCAP next week.

### **Constituency Updates**

### Graduate Student Assembly

Ms. Baah-Dwomoh provided the following written report in her absence.

GSA's 1st General Assembly meeting for the spring semester will be Thursday January 25 in the GLC Multipurpose Room.

GSA is hosting a cross campus social weekend with the NCR graduate students and the Roanoke graduate students, Feb 3-4. This was done in response to the positive feedback we got from last semester by hosting a tailgate for a football game, so we decided to make it a whole weekend of activities so that as many students as possible from our other campuses can attend. We are working closely with the NCR GSA and RGSA and four main events have been planned for the weekend. Dean DePauw was able to secure tickets to the VT vs Miami basketball game on Feb 3, so we are providing tickets to NCR GSA and RGSA to distribute out. For the students that don't receive tickets to the game but still wish to watch it, we are planning a watch party for any interested students (will most likely be held at Champs downtown). Our Spring Beer and Wine Social will be Saturday Feb 3, and we decided to do it specifically on that date to include the NCR and Roanoke graduate students. On Sunday, Feb 4, we are hosting a brunch with Dean DePauw for the NCR and Roanoke graduate students. After brunch, we will have campus tours and trips to the bookstore since several of the NCR students have remarked that they have never been to campus. If there are any questions or comments please direct them to Alex Hyler or Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh.

### Graduate Honor System

Ms. Lavender-Stott reported there are four cases in progress. A constitution review will be done this spring.

### University Library Committee

The graduate data management working group has reached out to a number of departments about establishing graduate data management planning procedures. One department officially signed on, and one department is currently considering. The committee will meet with the third department in early February.

### Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate has not met since the last report.

### Student Government Association

There was no report.

### Board of Visitors

Mr. Netto reminded everyone that the application period is now open for next year's BOV representatives. He asked for students to volunteer to serve in the selection process.

## **University Council and Commission Updates**

Dr. Edgar reported University Council meets next week.

There were no other commission updates.

## **Graduate School Update**

Dr. DePauw reported on the Molecular and Cellular Biology program announcement in VT News. This serves as an IGEP model. Dr. DePauw also commented on accelerated programs to be expanded beyond the department and moving into other departments. This fits well with destination areas. Currently, there is an environmental program that will allow students to attend VT while enrolled at other campuses. The VSU program may develop to allow their undergraduate students to attend online VT engineering programs with possible graduate admission in industrial systems engineering. Dr. Carlson reported on the faculty activity reporting system, ELEMENTS, and suggested it could potentially develop to provide a site for graduate students to record scholarly activity.

## **Old Business**

The revised Turnitin and iThenticate document was presented and accepted by the membership. Clarification was given on the use of the tool beginning in summer, 2018.

## **New Business**

Currently, to chair a graduate committee, the individual must have a terminal degree, a record of current scholarly activity, and working in graduate education. This suggests not every collegiate faculty will be qualified to chair a committee. Currently, all tenure track faculty are permitted to chair without consideration of this criteria expected of collegiate faculty. Clinical faculty may also be impacted by this requirement. Non-tenure track faculty are meeting the requirements. The form will be updated to reflect this definition more clearly and the policies in the catalog will be clarified.

## **Announcements**

Strategic planning announcements will be forthcoming.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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