

## **MINUTES**

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

**April 17, 2019**

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

### **Graduate School Conference Room**

**Present:** Rajesh Bagchi (Chair), Lujean Baab, Nancy Bodenhorn, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Paul Emmons, Roan Parrish (for Samantha Fried), Madlyn Frisard, John Hole, Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Anurag Mantha, Gail McMillan, Hannah Parks, Annie Pearce, Martina Svyantek, and Zhiwu Xie.

**Absent with notification:** Mehdi Ahmadian, Lesa Hanlin, Joseph Kozak, Xin Luo, and Robert Sumichrast.

**Absent without notification:** Cynthia Hampton, Alexis Hruby, Sarah Karpanty, Kathy Lu, Nick Rexroad, and Tyler Walters (ex officio).

**Visitors and invited guests:** , Zo Amani, Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Bill Huckle, Will Makowski, and Michelle Yancey.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of April 3, 2019 were approved as amended.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Graduate Curriculum Committee**

The Graduate Curriculum Committee minutes of April 11, 2019 were accepted as presented.

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

There was no report.

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

Dr. Bodenhorn reported on the changes of the wording on the ESS checkboxes when there is a final exam. DRSCAP members have met with faculty to discuss possible changes. Dr. DePauw noted that DRSCAP

members' suggestions are valued by the Graduate School. The next topic for consideration by DRSCAP will be consideration of the revocation of degrees, including ETD's.

### **Old Business**

The membership reviewed the second reading of the iPhD proposal from Will Makowski. The proposal was approved.

### **New Business**

Dr. Huckle introduced Michelle Yancey. She presented her iPhD proposal to the membership. Following her presentation, the commission discussed the first reading of the proposal and provided Ms. Yancey with additional considerations for her proposed study. The second reading will be held at the next meeting.

Dr. DePauw introduced the Mental Health Task Force Report recently distributed following presentation at University Council. In particular, she addressed the fifth recommendation that states CGS&P "should evaluate and consider changes to academic practices that have a history of adverse effects on student mental health and well-being". The commission "would also evaluate academic opportunities which promote student mental health and well-being". These evaluations and opportunities will be discussed further at the next CGS&P meeting. Dr. Bagchi recommended a sub-committee be considered with graduate student representation.

### **Graduate School Update**

Dr. DePauw reported that next Tuesday is the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration of graduate education in the National Capital Region. Progress continues in the planning for fall, 2019, admissions and enrollment at the NVC. Strategies are being identified for future semesters.

Several academic transactions impacting the Graduate School were approved by the BOV at the recent meeting. They include:

The PhD degree in neuroscience was approved by the BOV and is moving forward to SCHEV for approval.

The renaming of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies to the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies & Policies was approved by the BOV. This will be effective Fall, 2019.

The School of Medicine Student Honor Code was approved by the BOV.

### **Constituency Updates**

#### Graduate Student Assembly

Ms. Svyantek announced the election of officers for next year will be held a week from Thursday. This coming Thursday there will be a meet the candidate event.

### Graduate Honor System

Mr. Mantha reported there are two open cases from fall. A spring case was reported and dismissed. Mr. Mantha will continue his position in 2019-2020.

### University Library Committee

Dr. Xie reported the committee met on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Xie gave a presentation on the library's vision for the Innovation Campus. The membership showed strong support for the vision.

### Faculty Senate

Ms. McMillan reported the research assessment survey is being evaluated now and will be sent to the BOV at completion.

### Student Government Association

There was no report.

### Board of Visitors

Mr. Amani reported on his experience with the BOV members at the recent meeting. He noted the members had attended Vt as undergraduates, but none had the experience of being a graduate student at VT. He also addressed student concerns and mental health issues related to personal financial issues with the BOV. Ryan King will be the new graduate BOV representative for 2019-2020.

### **University Council and Commission Updates**

Dr. Bagchi reported that the most recent University Council meeting was focused on the discussion of the Mental Health Task Force Report.

The first reading of the MEng Resolution was held at University Council.

Dr. Baab noted on May 16<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Global Accessibility Day.

There were no other commission updates.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Bagchi gave his thanks to the membership for their service this past year. He will unfortunately not be in attendance at the next meeting. Dr. Hole will chair in his absence.

Dr. DePauw reminded everyone of commencement on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. DePauw gave her thanks for Mr. Mantha's contributions to the BOV breakfast and his discussion in regard to candidacy status with the BOV members.

Dr. DePauw announced the Graduate Education Task Force will begin its work in the near future.

Dr. DePauw announced Will Walton's resignation from the Graduate School. A search is underway.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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