

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

April 18, 2018

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Kevin Edgar (Chair), Lujean Baab, Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Rajesh Bagchi, Jacob Barney, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Lesa Hanlin, Eric Hill, John Hole, Rachel Holloway, Alex Hyler, Peizhen Lu, Brett Netto, Hannah Parks, Sally Paulson, Annie Pearce, Hannah Whiteman, and Zhiwu Xie.

Absent with notification: Sudip Bhattacharjee, Nancy Bodenhorn, Erin Lavender-Stott, Xin Luo, Robert Sumichrast, Martina Svyantek, and Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent without notification: Alan Abrahams.

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Katie Beach, Patty Becksted, Madlyn Frisard, Monika Gibson, Bill Huckle, Erin McCann, Libbie Sonnier-Netto, Donna Ratcliffe, Karen Roberto, 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.

New Business

Ms. McCann presented the university's strategic planning process reviewing the administrative structure, Beyond Boundaries, subcommittees, and prior strategic plans. Two town halls will be hosted next week. Each college will develop their own plan. Current efforts are focused on the draft vision, mission, core values, and strategic objectives. Eight objectives have been identified as key principles in supporting the vision. The new plan is expected to be effective fall, 2019. A handout was provided, and the PowerPoint presentation will be added to SharePoint.

Dr. Ratcliffe provided an overview of Career Services and introduced Ms. Beach, Assistant Director. Ms. Beach is assigned to provide support to graduate students. A new position will be added to also support graduate students. She provided an infographic that provided data about students served. Dr. Ratcliffe pointed out that student fees support Career Services as an auxiliary enterprise. She wants to reach out to provide greater support to graduate students. Dr. DePauw thanked Dr. Ratcliffe for her collaboration with the Graduate School.

Tracie Jones presented the first reading of her iPhD proposal. The second reading will occur at the next meeting.

Woohun Joo presented the first reading of his iPhD proposal. The second reading will occur at the next meeting.

Old Business

The CGS&P Resolution 2017-18B was approved as presented and will be submitted to University Council for its first reading. Faculty Senate waived its review of the resolution.

The chair of CGS&P will be Rajesh Bagchi for 2018-19. The chair of GCC will be John Hole for 2018-19.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of April 4, 2018 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The minutes of April 12, 2018 were accepted as presented. Dr. Bagchi reported that eight proposals were accepted at the last meeting.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. Pearce announced a new appeal was heard today. Work will continue with an effort to complete the process by the end of the semester.

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

Dr. Huckle reported DRSCAP representatives met with Dean Sumichrast, College of Business, on April 11 to discuss the possibility of “stacking” certificates to earn a degree. Specifically, in the Masters in Information Technology (MIT) program, which is a virtual program, the request is to develop a variety of 9-12 credit certificates that students could choose from to add up to 30 total credits that would become the master’s degree. Dean Sumichrast estimated that there would be between 6 – 8 certificates. The courses in each certificate would be unique to that certificate, with no overlap. The MIT program comprises course options in both Business and Engineering, so both Colleges are interested in the possibility.

Students in the program typically are supported in their tuition by their current work sites, and the certificates could potentially benefit them along the way toward a degree in terms of salary and promotions. In some situations, the certificate might be more meaningful to the employers than the degree. The potential exists that some students might start with one certificate in mind but realize the value of the education and continue in additional certificates and/or a degree.

Additional information that was gathered from questions include that there is currently a set of four common core courses that all MIT students take, which might be considered one certificate. This was developed for the degree approval process with SCHEV. Dean Sumichrast was not aware of what the final exam consists of for the MIT degree.

Subsequent review of graduate school policy confirmed that 100% of course credit hours earned toward a certificate could be applied toward the degree, but that no more than 50% of credit hours could apply from one certificate to another (in situations where courses are common to multiple certificates). No triple-counting is permitted. Further discussion among the DRSCAP members included the idea that a degree earned by stacking certificates should include something more than the sum of hours earned via disparate certificates. The sense of the committee was that we are not opposed to the idea of stacking certificates with unique courses toward a degree, but that something common should occur at the end of the degree (this could be one course from the core described earlier). This course could serve as a capstone project of some sort, and would be where the final exam would take place as required by graduate school policy.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw reported that the Council of Graduate Schools is surveying college deans on the optimal nationally recognized date for admission acceptance. The survey offers options of March 1, 15, or 31. Dr. DePauw extended her thanks to CGS&P for its support of a date change.

There is no update on academic changes.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

There was no report.

Graduate Honor System

There was no report.

University Library Committee

There was no report.

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. Edgar reported the diversity resolution, CGS&P 2017-18A, was discussed at University Council. Concern has been expressed about a burden on faculty. NLI will offer support to assist in meeting the resolution's expectations. Additional minor edits will be made to the resolution for submission to Faculty Senate and University Council by Friday.

University Council accepted the first reading of the Graduate Honor System Constitution.

There were no other commission updates.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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