

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

September 20, 2017

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Kevin Edgar (Chair), Alan Abrahams, Lujean Baab, Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Rajesh Bagchi, Jacob Barney, Sudip Bhattacharjee, Julie Billingsley, Nancy Bodenhorn, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Eric Hill, Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Alex Hyler, Erin Lavender-Stott, Peizhen Lu, Xin Luo, Brett Netto, Hannah Parks, Sally Paulson, Annie Pearce, Martina Svyantek, Zhiwu Xie, Ying Zhou.

Absent with notification: Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent without notification: Robert Sumichrast.

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

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 September 6, 2017 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The minutes of September 14, 2017 were accepted as presented. Dr. Bagchi reported one proposal was tabled at the last meeting. Committee workshops and examples of how to write proposals are committee suggestions to improve efficiency.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. DePauw reported the committee will meet soon to hear the first appeal.

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

Dr. Bodenhorn reported the committee had its first meeting, discussing the continuation of the work on the diversity requirement. Additional information is being gathered.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Ms. Hyler reported the first General Assembly will be held tomorrow, with a change in how the meetings will be held. The group is engaging with the new master plan. Football tickets are being made available to the GSA.

Graduate Honor System

Ms. Lavender-Stott is continuing to visit departments to discuss the honor system for graduate students. She is also conducting training for panelists and invited everyone to participate.

University Library Committee

Dr. Xie reported on the pilot started last semester with one department currently interested.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Barney had no report at this time.

Student Government Association

Ms. Billingsley reported that the SGA is continuing to fill positions. SGA is also working with GSA on the master plan roll out.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Edgar reported on this week's council meeting. A renaming of a center had its first reading. A resolution for a new bachelor's program in public health was also heard.

Ms. Austin reported on the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs. The first meeting was held to discuss goal-setting for the year.

Ms. Hyler reported on the first meeting of the Commission on Student Affairs. The SGA is assisting in promoting workshops being led by Dr. Matheis.

Dr. Holloway reported on the first Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies meeting. There is the possible development of a policy to allow credit for prior learning.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw reminded everyone on the conversations in the classroom discussions and encouraged everyone's participation. Dr. DePauw commented on the suspension of DACA and the impact on our students and staff. DRSCAP has been asked to review plagiarism software and consider implementation at the Graduate School; a budget request by the administration will be considered this Friday. Self-plagiarism will again be discussed to consider when software is management-appropriate, unique

considerations for certain degree programs, and the needed education process. The Graduate Program Directors Meeting will be held on October 19th.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

The commission pursued a conversation about topics to explore this year. Dr. Pearce reported on the potential for creating a dog-friendly facility at VT. Two handouts were disseminated for consideration on how to proceed with this possibility. Research will move forward with a report coming forward in the spring. Dr. DePauw and the GSA requested an exploration of a different tuition structure for post-candidacy status. DRSCAP will also explore this topic. Dr. Edgar reminded everyone of his interest in exploring an improved safety culture. He will establish a task force from CGS&P to develop this topic. Ms. Svyantek noted the need to clarify contract language about the distinction between student and employee in SSD or ADA.

Dr. DePauw reported on the Anti-Bullying Initiative. The task force was formed last spring semester and met throughout the summer. A draft website has been developed and will be tested for usability soon. The updated graduate education expectations have been published on the Graduate School website. Dr. Robinson will be assisting with the faculty's role in providing support for students. This topic was not included in the new faculty orientation due to time constraints. Meetings will be held with colleges and institutes.

Announcements

Dr. DePauw announced that the Little Hokies Hangout will be licensed for ages zero to two. Ms. Riegger has just received an award for the work she has accomplished.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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