

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

November 7, 2018

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Rajesh Bagchi (Chair), Lujean Baab, Nancy Bodenhorn, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Paul Emmons, Samantha Fried, Madlyn Frisard, Cynthia Hampton, Lesa Hanlin, Joseph Kozack, Kathy Lu, Xin Luo, Anurag Mantha, Gail McMillan, Hannah Parks, Annie Pearce, Martina Svyantek, and Veronica Warda.

Absent with notification: John Hole, Rachel Holloway (ex officio), and Robert Sumichrast.

Absent without notification: Ellen Gilliland (for Alan Abrahams), Sarah Karpanty, Nick Rexroad, Richard Vari, Tyler Walters (ex officio), and Zhiwu Xie.

Visitors and invited guests: Zo Amani, Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Catherine Grimes, Bill Huckle, Alyssa Rametta, Tremayne Waller, and Will Walton.

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 October 17, 2018 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The Graduate Curriculum Committee minutes of October 25, 2018 were accepted as presented. Three courses were approved and one tabled.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. Bodenhorn reported the committee met today and has a plan for collecting additional information for an active appeal.

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

Dr. Bodenhorn reported the committee has prepared an initial draft for a resolution of graduate student candidacy status post-prelim. The proposed resolution will be forthcoming at a future CGS&P meeting. Data has been identified in response to the National Academies report and will also be presented at a later date.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Ms. Gibson presented two new areas included in proposed revisions of the graduate assistantship policy. The policies have been scattered among various documents and this effort brings graduate assistantship policy under one document. The material supporting these changes was previously distributed to the membership. Several comments and suggestions were made. An updated policy with additional revisions will be considered at the next meeting for approval.

Dr. DePauw presented the Principles for Student Classification. This statement is the result of an in-depth committee (membership identified on the document) investigation to create a concise document that will assist with policy and procedure development. Discussion was held and clarification offered by Dr. DePauw in response to how the principles evolved. The membership upheld the document and will review the principles again at the next meeting.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw reported on her presentation for graduate education to the President's Council today. Of particular concern is the decline of graduate student enrollment. Dr. DePauw shared how graduate education should be viewed and how badges, certificates, funding, and other dynamics impact the enrollment. She discussed capacity and recognized that much more can be accomplished to improve enrollment.

Dr. DePauw will share the IGEP report with the membership.

Dr. DePauw noted several points she has shared with the administration regarding a proposed resolution for graduate student candidacy status post pre-lim. The points include: no change in total degree requirements; the status will be a minimum of two years and maximum of three years; enrollment cost would be at three credits; incentive for PI's because of the tuition cost reduction; and GTA's will have a decrease in tuition remission. Fellowships currently require payment of full tuition; a policy change will allow fellowship dollars to stretch further.

The resolution for the master of dietetics degree program was approved at last week's BOV meeting.

The resolution for the Ph.D. in neuroscience was passed last week at University Council.

The March BOV meeting will focus on graduate education.

Two unsolicited bids for the northern Virginia campus are being evaluated by the administration.

Graduate homecoming will include current grad students from multiple locations and alumni. Football tickets have been provided by Athletics. The celebration will be held on November 17th.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Ms. Fried reported the next general assembly meeting will be this Thursday. The strategic plan will be discussed. All committees are fully staffed. Ms. Warda reported the assembly is considering what mental and physical health for graduate students means to students.

Graduate Honor System

Mr. Mantha reported there are now nine open cases representing twenty-one students.

University Library Committee

There was no report.

Faculty Senate

Ms. McMillan reported the Faculty Senate is currently reviewing the strategic plan. Dr. DePauw will meet with the Faculty Senate this Friday to discuss graduate student candidacy status post pre-lim.

Student Government Association

There was no report.

Board of Visitors

Mr. Amani reported the arts' programs were discussed at last week's BOV meeting. The campus plan was approved and has necessary flexibility for the future. Staff total compensation was also a concern for the Board membership. Additional conversations about compensation will continue with university administration. Child care will be emphasized at the spring BOV meeting. The BOV graduate student representative application for next year will be available in December.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Edgar reported the resolution for the neuroscience Ph.D. was passed at last week's University Council meeting. The Commission name change also passed. Both actions will move forward to the BOV.

There were no other commission updates.

Announcements

Dr. Bagchi reported on the search for the next provost. An excellent pool of candidates has been presented and interviews will be held soon. The details of the search remain confidential.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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