

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

November 15, 2017

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Kevin Edgar (Chair), Alan Abrahams, Lujean Baab, Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Rajesh Bagchi, Nancy Bodenhorn, Lesa Hanlin, Alex Hyler, Peizhen Lu, Xin Luo, Hannah Parks, Annie Pearce, Robert Sumichrast, and Martina Svyantek.

Absent with notification: Jacob Barney, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Eric Hill, Rachel Holloway, Erin Lavender-Stott, Brett Netto, Sally Paulson, Tyler Walters (ex officio), Ying Zhou, and Zhiwu Xie.

Absent without notification: Sudip Bhattacharjee and Julie Billingsley.

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin and Bill Huckle.

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 November 1, 2017 were approved as amended.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Bagchi presented the minutes of November 9th, 2017; they were accepted as presented.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

The committee reported a case is currently under review.

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

Dr. Bodenhorn reported there was no meeting last week. She acknowledged CEOD's comments regarding the inclusion and diversity education resolution and the committee will review the comments at the next DRSCAP meeting.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Ms. Hyler reported the GSA will meet tomorrow. The GSA will consider possible revisions about concerns in the Master Plan. The House version of the bill proposes taxation of tuition waivers. The GSA has issued a call to action and has established a web presence with data on the impact of this proposed legislation. The parking master plan is under consideration and improved parking availability may be forthcoming for graduate students.

Graduate Honor System

There was no report.

University Library Committee

Ms. McMillan reported library staff ate looking at graduate student data and library usage. Guidelines are being drafted and the geography department is being asked to review for comments. The committee has not met.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Abrahams reported the Faculty Senate approved a full-faculty pilot of the Faculty Soundboard survey, subject to approval by University Legal Counsel. Legal counsel has been asked to review the implications of the Faculty Soundboard in relation to Title IX, Clery Act, FOIA, and any other legal matters.

Student Government Association

Ms. Hyler presented on behalf of Ms. Billingsley that the SGA has passed legislation to form a working group or task force to review discrimination actions as related to university policy 1025. This is specific to the Commission on Faculty Ethics.

Board of Visitors

Mr. Netto reported the Board of Visitors met from November 4th-6th. On Saturday, the events started with a luncheon where the board members met with undergraduate and graduate students to listen to the student's perspectives regarding Virginia Tech. Feedback from both the board members and graduate students was extremely positive. Later that evening, the board viewed the updated Master Plan in the Cube at the Moss Arts Center. The Board also passed the resolution to finalize the merger between Virginia Tech and the Carilion School of Medicine to create the ninth college at Virginia Tech. This will officially begin on July 1, 2018.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Edgar reported the Center for International Research and Development was approved. There was an excellent presentation on security and safety by Chief Foust. Dr. Edgar encourages everyone to reach out and provide this education for their departments.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

There was no report.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

The iThenticate document has been revised to include publications as book chapters which would not be considered plagiarism. The other update notes that the tool standard is subjective and the tool will not be fail proof. The iThenticate document will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

The disrupting bullying website was reviewed. Dr. Bagchi will provide specific suggestions to Dr. Hanson. A question has surfaced on why all of the case studies are not listed on the website. There is a concern about why the case studies are not all listed. The task force will reconvene to discuss possible improvements to the website after everyone submits their concerns about the site. Concerns should be submitted to Ms. King for tracking and then will be submitted to Dr. Hanson for the next task force meeting.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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