

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

December 6, 2017

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Kevin Edgar (Chair), Lujean Baab, Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Rajesh Bagchi, Jacob Barney, Sudip Bhattacharjee, Julie Billingsley, Nancy Bodenhorn, Lesa Hanlin, Eric Hill, Alex Hyler, Erin Lavender-Stott, Peizhen Lu, Brett Netto, Hannah Parks, Sally Paulson, Annie Pearce, and Martina Svyantek.

Absent with notification: Karen DePauw (ex officio), Xin Luo, Robert Sumichrast, and Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent without notification: Alan Abrahams, Rachel Holloway, Zhiwu Xie, and Ying Zhou.

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

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of November 15, 2017 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Bagchi reported on committee updates as reflected in the corrected minutes of October 26, 2017. The minutes were accepted by the commissioners.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. Pearce reported one remaining case will be considered this semester.

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

Dr. Bodenhorn presented a proposed change in holistic admissions that would give departments the ability to request on a case-by-case basis regular admission and not provisional admission based on the

applicants' experience, qualifications, and a GPA of 2.75-2.99. A motion was approved to effect this change in practice.

Dr. Bodenhorn has responded to Dr. Hu regarding the feedback from the CEOD executive committee about the inclusion and diversity education component. A meeting with DRSCAP and CEOD members has been proposed to further discussion about the proposed resolution.

Dr. Bodenhorn presented a draft letter to the Council of Graduate Schools regarding the current deadline of April 15th for students to accept assistantships. Three options have been suggested to improve the students' and schools' decision process. Additional discussion was held and DRSCAP will continue to work on options for consideration.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Ms. Hyler reported the last fall GSA meeting will be tomorrow evening. The budget bill will continue to be discussed following the House and Senate versions moving to reconciliation.

Graduate Honor System

Ms. Lavender-Stott reported she has completed three panelist trainings for ten new panelists. There have been six cases moving through facilitation this fall. One special case is being appealed and one case from last year has been heard. She expects additional cases coming in during finals week. She will be meeting with other constituencies regarding the new plagiarism software implementation.

University Library Committee

There was no report.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Barney reported that the Faculty Senate discussed the proposed tax bill at last week's meeting.

Student Government Association

Ms. Billingsley reported the reading days of December 13-15 will be held at Squires.

Board of Visitors

Mr. Netto reported the 2018-2019 BOV applications for student reps are open. Application can be made at <http://www.dsa.vt.edu/BOV/apply.php>.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Edgar reported on resolution actions at University Council.

Ms. Hyler indicated there were no updates from the Commission on Student Affairs.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

There was no report.

Old Business

The revised document for iThenticate was reviewed and there are no further updates.

Further discussion on academic bullying was postponed.

New Business

There is strong support for UC Resolution 2017-18A. There is concern the review process will bog down, however, thus far, the process has functioned successfully. A resolution cannot be delayed longer than four weeks.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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