

**Minutes**  
**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**  
**February 4, 2009**  
**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room**

Present: Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Don Leo for Dr. Richard Benson, Dr. François Elvinger, Ms. Laura Freeman, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Michael Mortimer, Ms. Amanda Olejarski, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Hannah Swiger

Absent with Notification: Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. James Freeman, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Thomas Martin, Ms. Penny McCallum, Dr. Sue Murrmann

Absent without Notification: Ms. Megan Armbruster, Ms. Evelyn Richardson

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Linsey Barker, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Mr. Joe McFadden, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham

Dr. Paul Deck, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the agenda:** Approved.

**Approval of minutes from January 21, 2009:** Approved.

**Committee Reports**

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Dr. Elvinger reviewed the committee meeting actions from January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee has discussed the approval of new conjoint courses, and a representative from the UCC will be attending the next GCC meeting to share their discussion. Both committees will draft a proposal which will be submitted to the commission.

Graduate Student Appeals: The committee continues to work on two appeals.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): *Defending Student Status for Qualified Graduate Students*

The committee presented a proposed revision to the current Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 97. The committee will incorporate the commission's feedback into the proposal.

Dr. DePauw reminded the commission that we do not monitor graduate students' outside (VT) employment.

**Other Reports**

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): *Resolution to Revise the Virginia Tech Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure*

Mr. McFadden presented the proposed resolution. It was presented to the Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and generated positive comments. After CFA has finished reviewing the document, they will forward it to the Faculty Senate. They have also asked that it be presented to CGS&P. Mr. McFadden listened to the commission's comments and concerns and thanked them for their input.

Mr. McFadden noted that several GSA resolutions have been proposed, including one that affirmed their commitment to diversity, one that dealt with meal plan options, and one that dealt with fees. Currently the GSA is updating their by-laws and policies.

In addition:

- GSA elections are approaching.
- Plans are being finalized for the research symposium and judges are still needed.
- Friday the GSA will be hosting a social hour.
- A fees committee and a health insurance committee have been formed this semester.
- The GSA has circulated a health insurance survey and already has 200 responses.
- The results of the survey will be presented at a future commission meeting.

Graduate Honor System (GHS):

Ms. Laura Freeman reported for Mr. James Freeman. The last meeting of the review committee for the constitution is on Monday. Mr. Freeman hopes to have a draft of the revisions in the near future (end of February or early March).

University Library Committee (ULC): None.

University Council: Dr. Deck reviewed the recent activities of the University Council. He referenced a discussion about developing a mechanism for professionals to teach courses, primarily in engineering.

Follow-up from Winter Summit and BS/MS Program

Dr. DePauw asked the commission to focus on some of the questions and issues that were remaining from the summit.

The issues remaining included:

GPA requirements beyond the 3.0

BS/MS by track: for the research track, determine whether or not the student had to go directly to PhD; could do masters & PhD, or do thesis masters only

5000 level credit to be taken as undergraduate student for use on masters or doctoral degrees or both

Dr. DePauw will include the above in her final report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Tabled

*Working Group / Task Force on Culture for Graduate Education*

**Announcements:** Dr. Anne McNabb has announced her retirement. The commission is invited to nominate candidates for the half-time associate dean position. The search will begin this spring. The position should be filled by August 2009.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted:*

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education