

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
March 3, 2010
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Don Leo for Dr. Richard Benson, Ms. Betsy Brucker, Ms. Kimberly Carlson, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Mr. Jonathan Duggins, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. Jeff Feaga, Dr. Tom Grizzard via videoconference, Mr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Tom Martin, Ms. Michelle McLeese, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Dr. Susan Short via videoconference, Dr. Aaron Purcell, Ms. Hannah Swiger, Dr. Robin Panneton for Dr. Daniel Wubah

Absent with Notification: Dr. François Elvinger

Absent without Notification: Mr. Reghu Anguswamy

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Elizabeth Fine, Dr. Bailey Van Hook, Ms. Laura Freeman, Ms. Rebecca French, Dr. Pat Hyer, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Dr. Janet Rankin, Dr. Daisy Stewart, Dean Paul Winistorfer

Dr. Patrick Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Dr. Miller asked that the visitors to the meeting be allowed to present their business items after the approval of the minutes. The agenda was approved with this change.

Approval of the minutes from February 17, 2010: Approved.

Old Business:

New degree proposal: *M.A. in Material Culture and Public Humanities*, 2nd reading
The commission unanimously approved the new degree proposal.

Resolution: Name change of the *College of Natural Resources* to the *College of Natural Resources and Environment*, 2nd reading. Dr. Paul Winistorfer, Dean, College of Natural Resources, addressed some concerns that had been raised since the February 17th meeting. Following discussion, the commission voted to approve the name change: 15 in favor; 4 opposed.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP):

Additional Employment for Graduate Students Receiving Assistantships

The committee proposed changing the language from “are expected to” to “should”, and “should be notified” to “must be notified” (below).

Assistantships (GRA, GTA, GA) are provided to graduate students to assist them financially and academically as they pursue graduate studies at Virginia Tech. Graduate students who are receiving a full-time assistantship are expected to work an average of 20 hours a week on the assigned assistantship duties, to be enrolled for 12 credits and to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress and the fulfillment of the requirements of the assistantship.

Given individual circumstances, graduate students may, at times, wish to pursue additional employment. Unless specified otherwise in the assistantship agreement, graduate students receiving full-time assistantships are not prohibited from seeking additional employment. In the interest of the student’s professional development and

*academic progress, students seeking additional employment **should** consult with their academic advisor, and when appropriate the assistantship provider, regarding the fulfillment of their responsibilities and maintenance of satisfactory academic progress. The Graduate School **must** be notified of additional employment agreements. If disagreements arise, the Graduate School should be consulted to assist with the resolution of any conflicts.*

Dr. Mallikarjunan reported that Dr. Pat Hyer has reassured him that the Yale case did not impact graduate student employment. Dr. Deck asked that the commission have an opportunity to see the policy in resolution format before it appeared as a University Council agenda.

Dr. Hyer reminded the commission that the faculty handbook did address the potential for conflict of interest issues in the relationship between faculty and students. Dr. Deck expressed some concern that the same information is not readily available to graduate students. A statement will be added to the resolution which will ensure that students get employment information and, in particular, information on the issue of conflict of interest.

The commission approved the report and policy wording recommended by DRSCAP. The policy will be presented to the commission in the resolution format at the next meeting.

Ph.D. Residency Requirements

Dr. Mallikarjunan introduced the CAPFA *Resolution on University Employee Enrollment in Doctoral Programs* which addresses the issue of residency requirements for full-time employees pursuing doctorate degrees. Dr. Mallikarjunan and Mr. Duggins reported that the committee had reviewed and discussed in depth the current Ph.D. residency requirements and supported the language in the current policy. Mr. Duggins also noted that the language had the support of graduate students.

Dr. DePauw noted that the National Capital Region (NCR) has documented, by program, ways in which residency can be earned, and IALR [Mechanical Engineering] has had residency programs approved. Dr. DePauw offered to provide these to the commission and stated that they will be posted on the web and can serve as examples for Blacksburg and extended campus program residencies. She felt it would be helpful to give general examples of individual residencies. Dr. Daisy Stewart expressed some concerns with the language of the NCR document as it related to the School of Education.

Dr. Hyer strongly encouraged the commission to develop a program level proposal which addresses (1) how a program can obtain alternative residency, (2) a timeline for response from the Graduate School (3) reasons for denial and an appeal process. Dr. Mallikarjunan noted that while there is an appeal process for individual requests, program level requests typically do not have an appeal process.

Dr. DePauw encouraged an ongoing dialogue during the development of the guidelines for proposing alternative ways to fulfill residency requirements.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): No report

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

CGS&P Membership Resolution: The commission voted to add a voting seat for a representative from the GSA.

Curriculum Practical Training (CPT) Resolution: Ms. Laura Freeman reviewed the resolution.

Ms. McCleese reviewed recent activities of the GSA.

Graduate School Ethics Course: Tabled

Graduate Honor System (GHS):

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

University Council:

Graduate School Update:

Announcements:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of
Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education