

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

September 16, 2009

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Dr. Don Leo for Dr. Richard, Benson, Ms. Lisa Blackwell, Ms. Monika Gibson for Ms. Kimberly Carlson, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Mr. Jonathan Duggins, Dr. Joe Eska, Dr. Tom Grizzaard, Mr. Saurrav Kumar for Mr. Nasim Sabounchi, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Tom Martin, Ms. Michelle McLeese, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Aaron Purcell, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Dr. Susan Short, Ms. Hannah Swiger, Ms. Catherine Tredick

Absent with Notification: Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann

Absent without Notification: Dr. Eileen Hitchingham

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Rosemary Blieszner, Ms. Rebecca French, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Dr. Janet Rankin

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

Dr. Paul Deck requested that the agenda be amended so that the discussion of the *Accelerated Undergraduate / Graduate* program preceded Dr. DePauw's presentation. The commission voted to approve the amended agenda.

Dr. Miller announced that the agenda items will be posted on Blackboard for the 2009-2010 year. Commission members introduced themselves.

Dr. Miller reviewed the operating rules of the commission meeting including dates for submission of agenda items. Before an item is presented to University Council, it will have two readings in order to allow commission members to report back to their constituencies. Dr. Miller requested that commission members who are ill, but would like to attend a meeting, will be connected via phone conferencing.

Dr. DePauw announced that meeting notes would be written using Pulse™ Smartpen. This device simultaneously produces an audio recording of the notes/session. The minutes will be posted on Blackboard as a pdf file.

Dr. DePauw introduced the new Graduate School associate deans, Dr. Rosemary Blieszner, Alumni Distinguished Professor from Human Development and Dr. Janet Rankin, Professor, from Human Nutrition, Foods, & Exercise. Dr. Blieszner's responsibilities will include the Graduate Curriculum Committee meetings and the Institutional Plan for Graduate Degrees. Dr. Rankin will have oversight over the GTA Workshop and the Annual Progress Review of Graduate Students.

Approval of minutes from April 15, 2009: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The first meeting is September 24, 2009.

Graduate Student Appeals:

Dr. Paul Deck and last year's committee have two appeals carried over to this year. Once the appeal processes are finished, a new committee will be appointed.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Dr. Joe Eska agreed to table until the next meeting DRSCAP's recommendation on a policy on external employment of graduate students who are on assistantship. New members are: Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Dr. Thomas Grizzard, Dr. Kuman Mallikarjunan, Dr. Aaron Purcell, and Mr. Jonathan Duggins.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

Ms. Michelle McLeese described a busy semester already in progress.

- ⌚ The first delegate meeting was August 27th with 110 graduate students in attendance. Of the delegates present, about half are new to GSA.
- ⌚ September 28th is the Graduate and Professional School Fair. This is the GSA's major fundraiser and is directed at assisting undergraduate students find graduate school options or opportunities.
- ⌚ The Travel Fund Programs (TFP) and Graduate Research and Development Program (GRDP) are both open in their first cycle for the fall semester.
- ⌚ The GSA presented to over 40 departments at graduate orientations, seminars, and groups regarding programs, events, and services to graduate students. This is double last year's efforts.
- ⌚ The first cabinet meeting was held on September 1st. Over 50 students were in attendance. With the exception of two, all appointments have been made.
- ⌚ Two new programs being initiated this year are: The Graduate/Undergraduate Mentoring (GUMP) program and Graduates Assisting Public Scholarships (GAPS)
- ⌚ GSA hopes to engage in more "co-sponsorship" opportunities with other organizations, and include more activities and events that build cultural and overall diversity awareness.

A list of departmental delegates and commission/committee representatives can be found on the GSA website www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu. Any questions or requests for further information should be directed to gsa@vt.edu.

Graduate Honor System (GHS):

The commission voted to ratify the appointment of Ms. Kimberly Carlson as the Chief Justice for the Graduate Honor System. Monika Gibson presented the following description of Ms. Carlson's qualifications:

Kimberly A. Carlson is a Ph.D. candidate at the Center for Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Tech with a concentration in nonprofit management, organizational development, and leadership development. She received her B.S. in Psychology and B.A. in Theatre Arts with a minor in Sociology from Virginia Tech in 1997. She also received her M.S.W. in Clinical Social Work and a certificate in Arts and Community Practice from Florida State University in 2000. Before returning to Virginia Tech, Kimberly worked as a director for community arts and arts education programs at various arts organizations in both Oklahoma City, OK and Pensacola, FL. She is currently working as the Resource Development Specialist on the Arts Initiative for Virginia Tech through the Office of the Senior Fellow for Resource Development. Kim served for several years as a GHS panelist on investigative and judicial hearings before applying for the Chief Justice position. The chief justice selection committee voted for her nomination unanimously. Her nomination was ratified by the GSA in their first meeting.

Because Ms. Carlson has a class scheduled for the same time as commission meetings, Ms. Monika Gibson read her report, as follows:

AY 2008-09 Review (including summer 08):

24 cases were referred, involving 29 students

12 different departments in 5 different colleges

6 of the 8 Fall cases and 6 of the 11 Spring cases were referred after the semester ended

18 Investigative Boards and 14 Judicial Panels were held

3 IBs and 3 JPs were held in summer 2009

3 IBs and 1 JP have been held this academic year 2009-10.

- **Outcomes**

- 7 students were found not guilty

- 12 students were found guilty and received Penalty 1 with various parts assigned

- 1 case was dismissed because it was not received within the allowable time period

- 2 cases are awaiting a date for a JP

- 5 cases are awaiting an IB

Current Status:

- **GHS worked through the summer on:**

- transitioning work from former CJ James Freeman to new CJ Kim Carlson

- processing spring 2009 cases

- updating procedures, GHS website, forms and communications templates to reflect the changes approved in the spring to the GHS Constitution

- **Orientation:**

- The chief justice and investigators gave more than 40 presentations on the honor system in departmental orientations, during international student orientation and the Graduate School's new student orientation

- **Cases**

- 3 cases involving 7 students have been referred in Summer II 2009 which will be recorded in the 2009-10 academic year.

- 2 cases are awaiting a JP

- 5 cases are awaiting an IB

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

University Council: No report.

Old Business:

Accelerated undergraduate / graduate program:

Dr. Paul Deck gave an overview of the resolution, *Accelerated Undergraduate / Graduate Degree Programs*, presented to University Council during the spring semester, 2009. The commission withdrew the resolution so that both the Graduate Commission (CGS&P) and the Undergraduate Commission on Policies and Procedures (CUSP) could continue their discussion on some of the issues of concern. A joint sub-committee from CGS&P and CUSP met over the summer and fall to develop changes to the existing resolution that might make it acceptable to both CGS&P and CUSP. Dr. Cliff Shaffer presented the changes developed by the joint sub-committee. In addition, Dr. Leo presented some concerns expressed by the graduate program chairs in the College of Engineering. The revised resolution was presented to the commission as a First Reading. Dr. DePauw expressed concern over the impact of the proposed changes to the resolution on the integrity of graduate degrees that would result. The commission agreed that the revised resolution could be presented to the commission member's constituencies for discussion and feedback. The revised resolution will be added to the agenda for a second reading at the October 7th meeting of the commission.

New Business: None.

Announcements:

Dr. DePauw announced two upcoming events:

- Graduate Alumni Homecoming, October 10, 2009
- GLC Plaza & Amphitheatre Opening, October 9, 2009

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

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