

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

October 1, 2008

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Ms. Megan Armbruster, Dr. Richard Benson, Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. James Freeman, Ms. Laura Freeman, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Ms. Penny McCallum, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Kerry Redican, Ms. Evelyn Richardson, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Hanna Swiger, Dr. Muzzo Uysal for Dr. Sue Murrmann

Absent with Notification: Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Mr. Thomas Martin, Ms. Margaret Merrill

Positions needing to be filled: Ms. Amanda Olejarski, GSA, needs a replacement for fall 2008; Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan needs a replacement for fall 2008; Northern Virginia needs a representative for the 2008-2009 academic year

Absent without Notification: None

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Linsey Barker, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Dr. Don Leo, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Dr. Brian Mihalik

Dr. Paul Deck, Chair, called the meeting to order. He announced that a current GHS appeal needs a CGS&P faculty representative. Dr. Deck agreed to represent the commission on the appeals committee.

Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved with one amendment under “Old Business”. The VMRCVM Grade Appeal Policy needs a procedure change only, not a policy change. The procedure change does not need to go through university governance.

Approval of minutes from September 17, 2008: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC):

The minutes from April 22, 2008 and September 11, 2008 were approved. Dr. Mihalik gave a brief update on the 4000/5000 level courses.

Graduate Student Appeals:

Dr. Deck is chairing the appeals committee. The committee met last week to discuss one of two appeals. He hopes to resolve those promptly.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP):

The committee met with Dr. DePauw to discuss the agenda for the 2008-2009 academic year. They will report on their progress at an upcoming meeting. Dr. Deck will ask Dr. DePauw to add another item to DRSCAP’s agenda; there does not appear to be a policy that addresses the number of times a graduate student may enroll in a class.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

Ms. Laura Freeman reported on the recent (last Thursday) meeting in which:

- President Steger gave a 30 minute presentation
- A health care committee was established

Two resolutions were scheduled to be discussed that dealt with: (1) Students in GLC who are required to purchase a[n undergraduate] meal plan and (2) a statement on commitment to diversity.

GSA activities include:

- Graduate and Professional School Day: over 100 schools in attendance
- Mentoring program: graduate students mentoring undergraduate students
- The travel fund program and graduate research development program are currently active
- Dialogue with the dean, October 7
- A number of social activities are scheduled, including a camping trip

Graduate Honor System (GHS):

Mr. Freeman reported that the GHS had a full slate of cases. The GHS is actively seeking faculty members to serve as panelists.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report

University Council: There is a University Council meeting on October 6. Dr. Deck attended a meeting of commission chairs and shared the 2008-2009 priorities. CGS&P's plans were described as "ambitious".

Ms. Ennis McCrery, Graduate Student Ombudsperson

At Dr. DePauw's request, Ms. McCrery gave an overview of her first year in the role of Graduate Student Ombudsperson. Ms. McCrery described various scenarios and possible patterns that she had observed. She also emphasized the neutrality of the position of ombudsperson.

The "Expectations for Graduate Study" document is being used as a framework to examine various issues. This document also addresses the responsibilities of students.

Ms. Linsey Barker, Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

Ms. Barker outlined some issues she hoped to work on this year in her capacity as a representative to the BOV, in particular, issues related to advising and mentoring.

Dr. Deck commented that the departmental annual review process is important in preventing and resolving student performance issues. He thanked both Ms. McCrery and Ms. Barker for their presentations.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Interdisciplinary Graduate Education: The commission voted to table this item. They will review the document and discuss it at the October 15th meeting.

Announcements

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:59.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School