

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

January 18, 2012

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah, Ms. Janice Austin, Mr. Marc Brodsky, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Ms. Natalie Cruise, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, Dr. Karen Hult, Mr. Mohammed Jalili, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Patrick Miller, Ms. Akiko Nakamura, Dr. Robin Panneton, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Susan Short, Ms. Katelyn Shugart-Schmidt, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Mr. Leighton Vila, Dr. Tyler Walters, Dr. Jim Yardley

Absent with Notification: Dr. Bernice Hausman

Absent without Notification: None.

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved with the addition of a Graduate School update by Dr. DePauw.

Approval of the minutes from December 7, 2011: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): No report.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations (GSR): No report.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): No report. The committee will be scheduling regular meetings for the spring semester.

Graduate Student Assembly Report (GSA): Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah reported that the GSA Research Symposium will be almost done with the review process this week and then will finalize decisions regarding acceptance or rejection. They will start seeking faculty to serve as judges for the event scheduled for March 28th, 2012. The first delegate meeting for the spring 2012 semester is January 26th. Ms. Abdallah introduced a new GSA representative to the commission, Mr. Greg Purdy.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Ms. Shugart-Schmidt reported that all but one of their cases have been resolved via facilitated discussion. Next week she hopes to have released announcements for the new education / outreach coordinator position. She is assembling a group of experienced panelists to review penalties used in the past and options for penalties in the future.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Walters said the library committee just met that morning and reviewed the new digital library services. Next month the committee will address learning space ideas. Dr. Brodsky announced that the library is now operating 24/5, electronic devices are available for checkout, a new photocopy system is in place, full service retrieval is available and faculty can request book delivery.

University Council: No report.

Graduate School:

- Dr. DePauw updated the commission members on conversations she's had with individuals and groups about statistics courses for graduate education. .
- All of the reviews of the IGEP proposals are in but final decisions have not been made. We will fund three of the proposals. Results will be available on the web.
- Dr. DePauw asked commission members to remind their departments that if they intended to offer new graduate degrees within the next three years they needed to submit the information by January 31st. Dr. Rosemary Blieszner has sent a reminder.
- Dr. DePauw asked the commission members for feedback on the December 7th strategic plan presentation.

Old Business: None

New Business: Preliminary Exam Scheduling

Representatives from the Graduate Student Assembly asked the commission to discuss the possibility of scheduling preliminary exams during the summer. Dr. DePauw noted that the preliminary examination is an officially recognized activity of the Graduate School so that it must take place when we are open and the student is registered. Ms. Austin pointed out that for our accreditation a student must be officially registered to take the exam, and that a reduced registration or fee might be an option to consider. A student must, however, be technically enrolled. The issue will be explored by the DRSCAP committee.

Announcements: Graduate students interested in attending Hokie Day in Richmond should fill out the survey. The link was published in the week's GLC announcement.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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