

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

February 6, 2013

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah, Mr. Jordon Booker, Mr. Marc Brodsky, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. Karen Hult, Mr. Mohammad Jalali via videoconference, Dr. Wayne Neu, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Gene Seago, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Dr. Dan Thorp, Mr. Nicholas Vaught, Dr. Tyler Walters

Absent with Notification: Mr. Mehmet Altin, Dr. Chad Bolding, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson for Dr. Gerhardt Schurig, Dr. Stephen Smith, Dr. Linda Wallace

Absent without Notification: Dr. Patrick Miller

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from December 5, 2012: Approved.

Commission members introduced themselves.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Dr. Hult reviewed the GCC minutes from January 24, 2013. The committee will be reviewing a new degree proposal in translational biology. Once approved by the curriculum committee it will be reviewed by the commission. Dr. DePauw reminded commission members to solicit feedback from their colleges and departments. The minutes were voted on and accepted for filing.

Graduate Student Appeals: Three cases have been completed by the committee. There are no outstanding cases.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP):

Resolution, Ethics and Integrity Education: Dr. Victoria Soghomonian reviewed a resolution to include an ethics and integrity education component in graduate education as well as an appendix to the resolution. Following the commission's discussion, the committee agreed to incorporate recommended edits into a revised proposal. The revised proposal will be posted on Scholar for review and on the February 20th meeting agenda for a second reading.

Graduate Student Assembly:

Ms. Shaima Abdallah reviewed activities of the GSA:

- The Graduate-Undergraduate Mentoring Program (GUMP) recruited 111 students. The GSA put a lot of effort into marketing the program and numbers doubled from last year. The orientation held on January 28th was very successful and attracted many interested undergraduate students.
- The Research Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday March 27th. Abstract submissions will be online again including registration for judges and reviewers. National Capital Region students will be eligible. There will also be a category for undergraduate entries.

- The Graduate Research and Development Program (GRPD) will start the spring cycle February 15 and remain open until March 15. The GSA website has the application form.
- The GSA Travel Program is open from February 25 – March 25 and serves students who wish to travel to a conference that relates to their research.
- The GSA is teaming with other organizations for the welcome back social to help pool resources.
- Lisa Wilkes and Richard McCoy were guest speakers at a delegate meeting to talk about transportation and parking issues.
- Applications are being accepted for the graduate student representative to the Board of Visitors for 2013-2014.
- The GSA was asked to join the ACC for Federal Lobbying Day, March 4 – 5. Students will have an opportunity to talk to representatives from Congress.
- GSA has a Relay for Life Team. Ms. Abdallah will send a link to commission members.
- “Fun” events:
 - February 8: Speed Dating
 - February 26: Cupcakes with the Dean
 - April 5th: Wine Social
 - April 23rd: Do-nuts with the Dean

Graduate Honor System:

Mr. Jordon Booker distributed and reviewed the Graduate Honor System (GHS) report. This semester GHS will be training a few more panelists, investigators, and facilitators.

University Library Committee: No report. The next meeting is February 21st.

University Council:

Dr. Patil reported that:

- The individual interdisciplinary doctoral program (ID PHD) was approved.
- Commission chairs are meeting with Dr. Steger to present their plans for future activities. Dr. Patil asked commission members to forward suggestions to him.
- Dr. Patil recommended sharing the current resolution with the Faculty Senate before presenting it to University Council. Dr. DePauw agreed and suggested presenting to the Commission on Research as well.
- Dr. DePauw suggested that growth in graduate education is a subject it may be important to talk about at a future meeting.

Graduate School Updates:

- Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program: Dr. DePauw has rescheduled a meeting to review proposals and hopes to have an updated report at a future commission meeting.
- Degree Management System: Dr. McNamnee has asked Dr. Wubah and Dr. DePauw to create a written document describing Virginia Tech’s degree management system.
- Conference of Southern Graduate School’s Award Recipient: Mr. Gregory Mitchell, a student in Architecture & Urban Studies, was named 2013 ETD Master’s Thesis Award winner. His advisor is Dr. Mitzi Vernon. Mr. Mitchell will receive the award at the CSGS 2013 meeting in Greenville, South Carolina. He will also receive \$1,000. Dr. Rankin notified the commission that this master’s competition will be moving to spring to coincide with spring awards presented during Graduate Education Week.
- Dr. DePauw is currently working on the co-op child care project. A survey will be going out soon.

Old Business:

VTIP Representative: Dr. Wayne Neu volunteered to serve as the commission’s representative to Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties (VTIP). He will serve on a board that meets three times a year.

New Business: None.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, on behalf of

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