

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

March 4, 2015

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Matthew Chan, Ms. Kira Dietz, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. James Jones, Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Dr. Kathyne McConnell, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Scott Salom, Dr. Gary Seidel, Dr. Tyler Walters.

Absent with Notification: Dr. Cyril Clark, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Charlene Eska, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Dr. Cliff Ragsdale, Ms. Maria Stack, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah.

Absent without Notification: Mr. Nathan Carter, Ashley Folden, Ms. Ashley Francis, Ms. Sally Wieringa.

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin.

Call to Order

Dr. Hans Robinson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The Commission approved the agenda without modifications.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of February 4, 2015 were approved.

The minutes of February 18, 2015 were approved with amendments.

Old Business

The resolution *On Faculty, Family Or Close Relations Serving On Graduate Advisory Committees* was tabled pending further review and evaluation.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Saul Halfon, Committee Chair, reported a question on pre-requisites as a result of reviewing a course proposal; it remains unresolved and may need to be referred to CGS & P. Currently, 4000 level courses should not be included on a program of study with the exception of six credits and cannot be required for the degree.

Graduate Student Appeals

Dr. Gary Seidel reported that two cases are currently under review.

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

Dr. Robinson met with the Commission on Faculty Affairs and DRSCAP to discuss the resolution *On Faculty, Family Or Close Relations Serving On Graduate Advisory Committees*. Additional discussion will continue on this topic under old business and include input from the Commission on Faculty Affairs and DRSCAP.

Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Greg Purdy, President of GSA, reported that travel fund program applications will be open March 2 – 22. The Graduate Research Development Program application cycle will be March 23 – April 3.

The treasurer of the GSA has been working to reallocate Student Budget Board funds, generated from student fees, to assist in providing 50 -75 gowns for graduation. A decision has not been made to provide hoods. This will be in operation for this spring's graduation ceremonies. The cost is undecided but will likely not be any more than the cost of the gown. A suggestion was made to include a cost for cleaning, however, the GSA intends to absorb that cost.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

No Report.

University Library Committee

Dr. Tyler reported the committee met last week. Speakers from the University of Minnesota discussed open textbooks, rights concerns, and how some of their campus projects function.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council met to review the Pathways proposal, a revision to the general education requirements. The ability to create a minor and a revision of learning areas required for students are under consideration. Faculty Senate wants to improve the proposal language for enhanced student understanding. A question was raised to identify the implementation plan. When the proposal is approved through University Council, CUSP will bring forward an implementation plan through the governance process. Courses must include either ethical reasoning or intercultural or global awareness, or both. STEM programs may find it challenging to include ethical reasoning because of current course demands. The proposal has been deferred until the University Council meeting on April 6th. Undergraduate students support the proposal. Dr. Holloway, Chair of CUSP, Dr. Hausman, and Dr. Sands will continue the discussion during the deferment period. Potential consideration for impact to GTA's was suggested. Dr. Sible visited the Faculty Senate to discuss and explore concerns of the proposal early in the plan development.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

No report.

Old Business

Dr. Robinson and Mr. Purdy went to the Commission on Faculty Affairs to discuss the resolution *On Faculty, Family Or Close Relations Serving On Graduate Advisory Committees*. The Commission requested information on the extent of the problem and any available data. A university or graduate school policy may be considered in the future. Further review needs to occur before moving forward. Mr. Purdy spoke with Ms. McCrery and Dr. Blieszner will provide some anecdotal data and information from the Bursar. A motion was made and seconded to withdraw the resolution *On Faculty, Family Or Close Relations Serving On Graduate Advisory Committees*. The motion was approved.

New Business

Dr. Hans Robinson reported that the Commission on Research to discuss the proposed changes to the self-plagiarism policy, *REVISION to POLICY No. 13020 - Policy on Misconduct in Research to address "Self-plagiarism", PROPOSED FACULTY HANDBOOK CHANGES REGARDING "SELF-PLAGIARISM, and the Policy on Misconduct in Research - Proposed Amendment to Add Self-Plagiarism*. A discussion by the members included a question about what is substantial and a suggestion was made that the Ethics Committee would need to provide guidance. Another question was discussed about how the policy would be maintained, either through the Graduate Student Catalog, the Hokie Handbook or in another format. Comments, questions and concerns will be prepared and sent to the Commission on Research. Additional information is needed before CGS & P will give further consideration. Hans will request a representative from the Commission on Research to attend a CGS & P meeting for further discussion.

Announcements

A request was made for a volunteer to attend DRSCAP. Dr. Jones volunteered to attend for the remainder of this semester.

Dr. Robinson encouraged everyone to begin considering candidates for nominations for next year. Discussion will be held during future meetings.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/

Ms. Marilyn R. King on behalf of
Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education