

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

April 19, 2017

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Karen DePauw (ex officio), Dr. Sally Paulson (Chair), Dr. Lujean Baab, Dr. Rajesh Bagchi, Dr. Sudip Bhattacharjee, Dr. Nancy Bodenhorn, Dr. Kevin Edgar, Dr. Charlene Eska, Dr. Lesa Hanlin, Dr. William Huckle, Ms. Alex Hyler, Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Ms. Erin Lavender-Stott, Dr. Kathy Lu, Mr. Brett Netto, Dr. Annie Pearce, Ms. Tara Reel, Ms. Libbie Sonnier-Netto, Dr. Zhiwu Xie and Dr. Ying Zhou.

Absent with Notification: Dr. Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Ms. Hannah Parks, Dr. Robert Sumichrast, and Dr. Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Absent without Notification: None.

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Muhammed Hajj.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Paulson at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes from April 5, 2017

The minutes were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The committee met and approved all proposals with none tabled.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

There was no report.

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

Dr. Huckle noted the committee meets tomorrow.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Ms. Hyler reported Grad Jobs Week is currently underway and asked that students be encouraged to participate. GSA will have elections and the final general assembly meeting tomorrow night.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Ms. Lavender-Stott announced three new cases were received last week. She is training additional panelists to assist in the case review process.

University Library Committee

Dr. Xie announced the committee met last week and will plan on reporting to the commission next meeting.

Faculty Senate

There was no report.

Student Government Association (SGA)

Ms. Robbins reported

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Paulson attended the University Council meeting and the previous resolutions for name changes were approved.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

Dr. Hajj reported on recommendations for student verification of the ethics requirement as part of the annual review and the preliminary examination. Ethics updates to the academic progress section of the catalog were presented on a separate document. Implementation will be forthcoming. Dr. DePauw reported the special honors system case has been resolved. Plagiarism was identified and the dissertation has been removed with degree suspension. The department will work with the student to earn a Ph.D should the student decide to choose this option. Dr. DePauw reminded everyone to support commencement and attend if possible.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Revisions to the Expectations for Graduate Education were presented. Conflict of interest, student control in committee formation, integration of diversity, and academic bullying were all lenses that were considered in making the revisions. DRSCAP will meet tomorrow and on May 6th. Dr. Bodenhorn asked that comments be sent to her prior to these meetings. The expectation is to finalize this document by the end of this semester.

Dr. DePauw presented a report from a the Anti-Bullying Committee. In addition to new language for the Expectations for Graduate Education document, case studies are being identified to assist in training. A bully-free zone has been suggested, similar to a safe zone. An online reporting system is also being considered. Formal policies related to bullying may also be considered in addition to educational programs. Bullying could be added to current policies, as well. This will involve other commissions to make these revisions. Discussion ensued to note a two-fold goal of awareness and reporting. Dr. DePauw attended Faculty Senate and discussed bullying; it was well received. Faculty Senate will assist in supporting training of faculty. Dr. DePauw also requested Faculty Senate's support if a resolution comes forward.

Dr. Paulson presented a joint resolution in Supporting the Establishment of a University Ombuds Function at Virginia Tech. CGS&P membership approved the resolution.

Dr. Huckle presented a Resolution to Include an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component in Graduate Education. This draft includes recommendations from DRSCAP. The reference to multidisciplinary scholars will be reworded. Dr. DePauw indicated a course is an option but not a requirement in meeting the requirements of this resolution. Departments will be responsible for implementing these requirements. A goal of integration into life was identified to ensure the requirements not be treated as isolated actions.

Announcements

Elections will be held at the next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Marilynn R. King
on behalf of Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D.
Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education