

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

September 3, 2014

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Nathan Carter, Dr. Cyril Clarke, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Kira Dietz, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Charlene Eska, Ms. Ashley Francis, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Ellen Plummer, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Scott Salom, Dr. Gary Seidel, Ms. Maria Stack, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Dr. Tyler Walters, Ms. Sally Wieringa, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: Dr. Alireza Haghghat

Absent without Notification: None

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Rosemary Blieszner, Ms. Cathy Grimes

Dr. Hans Robinson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Members and guests of the commission introduced themselves. Dr. Robinson gave a brief description of the role of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies in university governance.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from April 16, 2014: Approved with minor correction.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Saul Halfon, the committee chair, presented the meeting from August 28 to be accepted for filing.

Graduate Student Appeals

Members of this year's committee are Dr. Jim Jones, Dr. Gary Seidel, Ms. Kara Dietz, and Mr. Matt Chan.

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

Members of this year's committee are Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Christopher Zobel, Ms. Maria Stack, and Mr. Greg Purdy

Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Mr. Greg Purdy, GSA Chair, reviewed activities to-date:

- Some positions on the executive board are staffed by new people
- Record number of students attended opening fall events. President Sands attended the barbeque.
- Both the Travel Fund Program and the Graduate Research Development Program have increased the award amounts. Funding cycles are Fall and Spring and are reimbursement based.
- There are still delegate positions open. The GSA would like two delegate representatives for each department.

- The graduate student representative to the Board of Visitors [Ashley Francis] is on the commission.
- Matt Chan, the vice president for membership, reported on the progress of delegate recruitment.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

The commission ratified the appointment of Mr. Nathan Carter. Mr. Carter reviewed the current case load. This year he will be working with Dr. DePauw on a new ethics training as well as familiarizing faculty on GHS options, e.g., the facilitated discussion process.

University Library Committee

The committee has not met this year.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council: no report

Commission on Student Affairs had their retreat last week [Greg Purdy].

Old Business

Letter from University Library Committee to University Commissions: this will appear on the September 17th meeting agenda for discussion.

New Business

Presented to the commission for a first reading:

M.A. Data Analysis & Applied Statistics Degree

M.S. Instructional Design and Technology

Ph.D. Learning Sciences

The degree proposals will be presented to the commission for a second reading at the September 16th meeting.

State of the Graduate School: Dr. Karen DePauw

Dr. DePauw underscored the importance of commission representatives sharing information and soliciting feedback from their colleges and departments.

Dr. DePauw gave a progress report on graduate education at Virginia Tech. Topics included the compensation package for graduate assistants, the electronic signature system, the new application process, expanding recruitment efforts, the interdisciplinary graduate education process, transformative graduate education programs, GLC program offerings, new graduate degrees, ethics and scholarly integrity training for graduate students, graduate student housing, on-going and future issues for the commission to consider, and a Ph.D. yearbook.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach on behalf of

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