

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

October 2, 2013

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah, Ms. Beth Alley, Mr. Matt Banfield, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Ms. Kara Dietz, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Mr. Mordecai Harvey for Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Gary Seidel, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: Dr. Cyril Clark, Ms. Samantha Erwin, Dr. Mayuresh Patil,

Absent without Notification: Dr. Alireza Haghighat, Dr. Tyler Walters

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Dean Stauffer, Ms. Janet Webster

Dr. Joe Eifert, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from September 18, 2013: Approved with minor changes.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from September 12, 2013 were accepted for filing.

Graduate Student Appeals: The commission appointed four members to the committee to hear current appeals. Committee members are Dr. Bernice Hausman, Mr. Mordecai Harvey, Ms. Kara Dietz, and Dr. Gary Seidel. The committee agreed to meet with Dr. DePauw immediately following the commission meeting.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): Dr. Hans Robinson reported that the committee was reviewing the cooperative education program fee charge. Graduate students must pay three credits of tuition to participate in a co-op program. Undergraduates pay \$50.00. International students qualify for co-op employment via the Curricular Practical Training (CPT) requirement and must remain associated with the university.

Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

- Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah reported that the Graduate and Professional Schools Fair on September 23rd was a success with close to 500 undergraduates attending. There were 105 graduate schools represented and recruiters expressed an interest in returning.
- The GSA is interested in exploring ways to restructure their organization so that they can be more focused on governance and more active in change.
- Mr. Matt Banfield is a new GSA representative to the commission.

Graduate Honor System: Mr. Jordon Booker reported that training sessions are being held for new panelists. He plans to hold more training sessions this semester in locations other than the Graduate Life Center (GLC). There are currently three open cases; each case is ready for the last stage. Two cases were resolved this month, and one case is expected to be resolved in November. A previous case decision was

appealed, but the decision was upheld. Students may appeal a decision based on (1) severity of the penalty, (2) the process, and (3) new evidence.

University Library Committee: The week of October 2st is Open Access Week. The library is hosting several events; the schedule is on their website.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council: No report.

University Council on International Affairs: Dr. Subbiah reported that the council was working on an international education document as well as many other issues.

Graduate School Updates: Dr. Karen DePauw

The Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health (TBMH) degree external review will occur next week, October 9th and 10th. There are three external reviewers as well as Monica Osei from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). We should receive their report within two weeks. Following the review the degree will go to SCHEV for final approval. Assuming the review next week is positive, we can begin to admit students this fall. There is no final action on the two degrees in education. The external review will occur in November. Dr. DePauw will give the commission updates

Psychology Department Ph.D. proposal: The proposal to restructure the Developmental and Biological Psychology training area into two training areas is moving forward as planned. Once the TBMH degree is approved, then the psychology department can put their option on their web.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Master of Natural Resources Degree, NCR: proposal for credit reduction
- Proposal for Global Master of Natural Resources (GMNR) Option, NCR

Dr. DePauw advised the commission that the proposals do not incorporate changes that require governance approval. They are brought before the commission for review. Dr. Stauffer and Dr. Bolding reviewed the proposals and answered questions from the commission.

Graduate Education Continuing Discussion

Dr. DePauw and the commission continued the discussion on the future of graduate education. The conversation focusing on new masters and doctoral degree program areas as well as new modes of operations, or formats for delivering graduate education. Currently most courses are online or face-to-face, 3 credit seat-time courses.

Ideas and discussion included:

- Three credit courses offered in 1, 2, and 3 hour modules
- Week long intensive courses
- Students could be assigned to projects. For example, engineering could use variable credit hours for large projects and recruit students to work on specific projects, rather than one area of research.
- Weekend course
- Impact on faculty workload
- If a graduate student is a GTA, how would this affect their work life?
- New models may be department specific, wouldn't work across all colleges. Architecture might benefit from modular teaching, multi institutional faculty forming a team.
- Doctoral residency

- Are we comfortable with an online Ph.D.?
- In some departments, time to degree and funding are dependent on each other
- More potential for growth in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences to make university more balanced. Could create more digital humanities
- Need more resources if we increase student enrollment.

The commission agreed to continue their brainstorming discussion at a future meeting.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, on behalf of

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