

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
October 2, 2014
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Nathan Carter, Mr. Matthew Chan, Ms. Kira Dietz, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley via phone, Dr. Charlene Eska, Ms. Ashley Francis, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. James Jones, Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, 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. Cyril Clarke, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Alireza Haghighat, Dr. Ellen Plummer

Absent without Notification: None

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Muhammad Hajj, Ms. Cathy Grimes, Ms. Nicole Johnson

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from September 17, 2014: Approved with minor corrections.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Saul Halfon, the committee chair, reviewed the meeting activities from September 25th, 2014. The commission accepted the minutes for filing.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): Dr. Hans Robinson announced that Dr. Scott Salom is a recent appointee for the committee. He then reviewed four draft resolutions for discussion by the commission. The current policy requires maintaining continuous enrollment for a year (three semesters) in order to remain on an active status. The resolutions were not presented for a first reading.

The draft resolutions discussed were:

- Continuous enrollment resolution
- Leave of absence resolution
- In absentia resolution
- Summer student status enrollment

Dr. Robinson asked commission members to share the drafts with their constituencies and solicit feedback. Mr. Purdy may decide to share with the Graduate Student Assembly. Dr. Robinson is going to review them with the Budget Office as well as Faculty Senate.

Constituencies Updates:

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Greg Purdy, President, reported:

- The Graduate and Professional School Fair was a success. There were 111 recruiters from schools around the country and 500 – 600 students attended.
- Last week GSA held their first delegate meeting of the year. The meeting was attended by over 100 delegates, more delegates than any meeting in the past.
- Fall applications are being accepted for the Graduate Research Development Program and the Travel Fund Program. The programs will be advertised through social media and e-mail, as well as the GSA website.
- The GSA has begun working on the Research Symposium held during Graduate Education Week. There are two program chairs this year. GSA will send an e-mail on October 15 to ask for faculty reviewers.
- The Principles of Community were reaffirmed at the Inclusion and Diversity Forum on Monday.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Mr. Nathan Carter, Chief Justice, reported that GHS currently has one facilitated discussion and two cases being reviewed by a judicial panel.

University Library Committee

Mr. Tyler Walters reported that the committee met last Monday and went over capital planning presentation materials.

University Council and Commission Updates:

University Council: Dr. Hans Robinson

The council met for the first time. Commission chairs discussed their anticipated agenda items for the year. An important council agenda item this year will be the reform of the liberal arts curriculum.

Commission on Outreach and International Affairs: Dr. E. Subbiah

- The Virginia Science Festival at VT is October 4-11. The inauguration is at the Moss Arts Center on October 4.
- There is interest in creating a Lifelong Learning Institute in the summer for seniors.
- The vice president for outreach and international affairs outlined his plans for the year
- Over the summer, the voluntary health disclosure form for students for Study abroad programs was approved by the president and the residency requirement for the final semester was approved
- There are free foreign language classes for faculty and staff in Chinese, French, Spanish, and German taught by the Language and Culture Institute

University Council on International Affairs: Dr. E. Subbiah

- There are three award categories. (1) Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence, (2) Alumni Awards for Excellence International Outreach and (3) Outreach and International Affairs Employee Recognition Awards. Deadline for submission is January 26, 2015. More information can be found on the provost's website.

- Scholarships for students on study abroad were dropped last year and efforts under way to reinstate

Commission on Faculty Affairs: Mr. M. Chan

Virginia Tech is planning on acquiring the Carilion School of Medicine over the course of two years.

Commission on Research: Mr. M. Chan

The commission has drafted a letter in response to the library's request for support. Dr. Robinson asked commission members for a volunteer to draft a response from CGS&P.

Energy and Sustainability Committee: Mr. M. Chan

Virginia Tech is currently updating its sustainability plan and is asking for feedback by October 17.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies: Dr. M. Hajj

The commission approved a degree in system biology. The undergraduate curriculum committee is reviewing liberal arts requirements.

Graduate School Update: No report.

Old Business

Letter from University Library Committee to University Commissions: Dr. Robinson asked commission members to consider drafting a response from CGS&P.

New Business: None.

Announcements:

- The GLC Open House is October 24th. The format will be more of a "show and tell" rather than a poster session. Ms. Francis asked commission members to please share this information with students or student groups that might be interested.
- Ms. Cathy Grimes announced that the Graduate School has a LinkedIn page now and invited members to share this information with their students.
- The Virginia Science Festival opens this Saturday, at the Moss Center for the Arts.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach on behalf of

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