

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

October 18, 2017

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Kevin Edgar (Chair), Alan Abrahams, Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Rajesh Bagchi, Sudip Bhattacharjee, Julie Billingsley, Nancy Bodenhorn, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Eric Hill, Rachel Holloway, Alex Hyler, Erin Lavender-Stott, Peizhen Lu, Xin Luo, Brett Netto, Hannah Parks, Sally Paulson, Annie Pearce, Martina Svyantek, Tyler Walters (ex officio), Gail McMillan (for Zhiwu Xie), Ying Zhou.

Absent with notification: Lujean Baab, Jacob Barney, Lesa Hanlin, and Robert Sumichrast.

Absent without notification:

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Muhammad Hajj, Libbie Sonnier-Netto, and Kenneth Wong.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Edgar at 3:30 p.m. Remote guests were introduced. Dr. Austin was congratulated on the completion of her degree.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of October 4, 2017 were approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The minutes of October 12, 2017 were accepted as presented.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. DePauw met with the Appeals Committee last week. Dr. Pearce reported two cases are being considered.

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

Dr. Bodenhorn reported that DRSCAP met last week. The members are evaluating the diversity requirement and will take further action at the meeting next week.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly

Ms. Baah-Dwomoh reported the General Assembly meeting will be held tomorrow. A tailgate will be hosted this Saturday. The Mentimeter questions noted that friends, coffee, and community keep students at VT. Parking is the top concern of students, followed by stress and money.

Graduate Honor System

Ms. Lavender-Stott reported that mid-term cases are beginning to be recorded and many are being managed by facilitated discussion. In April, an Academic Integrity Week will be held across campus. The Corp, the Library, and the Math Emporium will be involved in the planning. An honors appeal case will be held tomorrow afternoon.

University Library Committee

Dr. Walters reported the committee met this past Monday. Discussion is currently focused on space issues with the plan of a more in-depth exploration of the concerns surrounding space availability this fall.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Abrahams reported the Faculty Senate met last night. The Soundboard was not discussed due to a full agenda and will be considered in two weeks.

Student Government Association

There was no report.

Board of Visitors

Mr. Netto reported the furniture has arrived for Room G in the Graduate Life Center to support a health and wellness space. A grand opening will be held at a later date.

University Council and Commission Updates

Dr. Edgar reported that University Council did not meet on October 16th.

There were no other commission updates.

Graduate School Update

Dr. DePauw reported on the rollout of the Disrupting Academic Bullying session that will be held on October 23rd. An invitation is extended to CGS&P to attend and assist in next steps. Next week is Open Access Week and sessions will be held sponsored by the Library. Dr. DePauw noted that a thesis, project,

practicum, or culminating event must happen with an M.S. or M.A. degree. Professional degrees can be coursework only. DRSCAP will continue this discussion and bring it back to the Commission.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Dr. Austin announced that the University Commencement Committee has a concern about the length of the spring commencement ceremonies due to growth in students participating. Because of limited space and staff, alternatives need to be considered. Having separate master's and doctorate ceremonies is one option. Another option was to exclude hooding during the ceremony or move hooding to the departments. The Commission discussed the options and recommended that no immediate changes occur.

Dr. DePauw announced the University is purchasing Turnitin. The product may be available for implementation for Spring, 2018, with a light rollout, and full rollout in the Fall, 2018. Dr. Holloway announced all students and faculty will have access. The Library, the three honors systems, Vet-Med, DRSCAP, and others will be involved in policy and procedure development, education, and training. Timing for use with the ETD needs to be determined prior to the exam. Turnitin can be integrated into Canvas. A recommendation was made documents would be submitted through Turnitin three weeks prior to the exam for the chair's review, giving the committee ample time for review prior to the exam. Discussion will continue as the process evolves.

Dr. DePauw announced the Graduate School will continue to sponsor a climate survey to be conducted in March, 2018. A university-wide climate survey will also be conducted in Spring, 2018.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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