

**Minutes**  
**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**  
**January 21, 2009**  
**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room**

Present: Ms. Megan Armbruster, Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Ms. Amanda Olejarski, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Hannah Swiger

Absent with Notification: Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. François Elvinger, Mr. James Freeman, Ms. Laura Freeman, Ms. Penny McCallum

Absent without Notification: Dr. Richard Benson, Dr. Thomas Martin, Dr. Michael Mortimer, Ms. Evelyn Richardson

Visitors and Invited Guests: Mr. Marvin Foushee, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham, Dr. Manuel Pérez-Quñones

Dr. Paul Deck, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the agenda:** Approved.

**Approval of minutes from December 3, 2009:** Approved with minor correction.  
**Committee Reports**

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Approved

Graduate Student Appeals: Currently there are two open appeals.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): No report.

**Other Reports**

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Hitchingham reviewed the December 11<sup>th</sup> minutes which included a copy of the letter to President Steger and Senior Vice President McNamee addressing concern about the impact of library budget cuts. The commission voted to support the letter.

University Council: No report

Winter Summit: Annual meeting of the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Dr. DePauw presented a draft working agenda for the Winter Summit. The summit this year will include a continuation of the discussions from the 2008 summit as well as new items, as listed below.

*Brief overview of gathering*

Follow up to January 2008 Winter Summit  
Shared interests and concerns between commissions  
Academic issues & policies that affect undergraduate and graduate students  
Connections with VP and Dean

*Winter '08 summit (brief updates)*

- 4000 level courses and graduate credit (progress on implementation)
- Student Life Policies (update)
- Tracking of course proposals (update)
- Interdisciplinary programs

*Discussion topics*

- Guiding principles for policies & procedures and academic decision-making in general
- Bachelors/Master's program and other progressive degrees
  - Purpose and goals of bachelor/master's
  - Clarification of relationship to dual enrollment
  - Identification of departments who wish to offer Bachelor/Master's
- Enrollment management strategies and principles

Dr. DePauw invited the commission members to attend a graduate student social following the summit.

Office of Graduate Student Diversity Initiatives:

Dr. DePauw introduced Dr. Manuel Pérez-Quiñones, associate dean in residence and director for the office of diversity programs in the Graduate School. Dr. Pérez-Quiñones described activities already underway as well as plans for the future. The goal of the office is to promote diversity and inclusive graduate community among the graduate students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Deck asked if there was an effort to recruit and mentor first generation Appalachian students.

**Old Business:**

Copyright and Fair Use Update: Ms. Nottingham gave an update on the development of procedures to assist students with their publications. She has met with library personnel, as well as Dr. DePauw. They hope to design a tool which will allow students to determine if they've met basic standards of "fair use".

**New Business:**

DRSCAP will review "Defending Student Status". It will appear as a discussion item on the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

Dr. DePauw shared the Politecnico di Milano's PhD yearbook with the commission. The publication includes the abstract and photo of each student. The publication is in the realm of possibility for Virginia Tech, and the Graduate School will continue to work on a similar publication, but as a web publication.

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted:*

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

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