

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
October 17, 2012
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah, Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Dr. Marc Brodsky, Dr. Alan Brown for Dr. Wayne Neu, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, Dr. Karen Hult, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Dr. Stephen Smith, Dr. Dan Thorp

Absent with Notification: Ms. Nancy Dudek, Mr. Jalali Mohammad (video conference connection failed)

Absent without Notification: Mr. Adam Ahmad, Mr. Mehmet Altin, Dr. Joe Effort, Dr. Gene Seago

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Monica Kimberly, Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved with one addition. Dr. DePauw requested that a discussion of GRE / PPI be added under New Business.

Approval of the minutes from October 3, 2012: Approved with minor corrections.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The committee met last week, and minutes from that meeting will be on the November 7th commission agenda.

Graduate Student Appeals: The committee is currently considering two cases.

Graduate Student Relations (GSR): No report.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): The committee met yesterday for the first time and have another meeting scheduled for October 30th. Some agenda items this year include graduate student compliance with federal regulations and providing the necessary learning opportunities for students; language competency for doctoral students; dissertations and open access; plagiarism; and GRE / PPI.

Graduate Student Assembly Report (GSA): Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah

- 150 or more applications for both the GRDP and TFP have been received to day. The application cycle is closed for both.
- The clothing swap was a successful community event. The GSA appreciates the support from the co-sponsors, the Women's Center and Graduate school
- The Fall Wine Social is Friday. Commission members are invited.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Mr. Jordon Booker

Two spring cases are waiting for the judicial process to be completed.

- One summer case is remaining.
- One fall case is just beginning the judicial process

University Library Committee (ULC):

The committee met on Monday for a special session attended by their guest, Cameron Neylon. Monday evening he spoke on open access science. His talk may be posted online. Dr. DePauw recommended that DRSCAP talk to Dr. Walters when open access is discussed.

University Council: The council approved an undergraduate degree in real estate at their last meeting.

Graduate School:

- Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Ennis McCrery, and Mr. Greg Purdy are meeting to discuss ways for graduate students to give feedback to faculty.
- Turnitin: Dr. DePauw distributed a few brochures from Turnitin. She will make a more formal presentation at a future date. Dr. DePauw asked the commission to consider whether or not it is the responsibility of the university to make a type of this software available. Should we make it mandatory? Dr. DePauw and Dr. Rankin prefer an educational approach rather than a punitive approach. Dr. Hult noted that it could include undergraduate students as well.
- The Graduate School would like to have graduate assistant, graduate research assistant, and graduate teaching assistant appointments done by November 15th (for spring) and by June 15th (for fall). Making funding changes is not a problem, and changes / corrections may be made at a later date.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Dr. DePauw described the Institutional Plan for Graduate Degrees process. Dr. Patil recommended adding the requesting department to the list. Colleges are invited to submit proposals for new degrees each fall.
- Dr. DePauw presented the newest dual degree between the Università degli Studi di Trento and Virginia Tech to the commission. Shared degrees do not need the approval of the commission, but Dr. DePauw would like the commission to be aware of new agreements. The shared degrees go through an extensive review process. Dr. DePauw provided the commission with a table of all Virginia Tech collaborative, dual, exchange, joint, online, and simultaneous degree programs and international degrees.
- Dr. DePauw introduced the ETS Personal Potential Index, a web-based tool that is a quantifiable evaluation of personal attributes for use in graduate admissions. This is an additional tool available to graduate schools to assist in giving a more complete picture of an applicant. Six core attributes are rated: Knowledge & Creativity, Communication Skills, Teamwork, Resilience, Planning & Organization, and Ethics & Integrity. Following a discussion, the issue was referred to DRSCAP for further study and review. The committee will bring the issue back to the commission for discussion at a future date.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, on behalf of
Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education