

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

December 3, 2008

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. James Freeman, Ms. Laura Freeman, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Thomas Martin, Ms. Penny McCallum, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Hannah Swiger

Absent with Notification: Ms. Megan Armbruster, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Michael Mortimer

Absent without Notification: Dr. Richard Benson, Dr. Ron Daniel, Mr. Gabe Goldman for Ms. Amanda Olejarski, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Muzzo Uysal for Dr. Sue Murrmann; Ms. Evelyn Richardson,

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Linsey Barker, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from November 19, 2008: Approved with minor corrections in attendance; Dr. Redican and Dr. Benson were present.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from November 13 were approved. Dr. Elvinger gave a brief update of the 4000/5000 course status.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

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

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

Ms. Laura Freeman reported that at the last delegate meeting,

- (1) A resolution was passed which affirms their support for diversity in graduate education
- (2) A resolution was passed which supports graduate student input into the tenure review process
- (3) A snow-boarding winter event is planned
- (4) A health insurance meeting was held [December 2] and a number of areas of concern were identified:
 - Higher maximum benefits
 - Higher prescription limit
 - Lower deductible amount
 - Northern Virginia graduate students getting access to VT graduate student health coverage [Jim Lane, GM Southwest, will provide information to students which will allow Northern VA students to seek medical assistance without first seeking a referral from the VT health system]

- Web-based health coverage information will be updated to assist graduate students in their decision making, e.g., deciding when they should or shouldn't go to Schiffert, how Schiffert can help, etc. Nancy Feuerbach will scan the medical plan brochure and post it on Blackboard

Graduate Honor System (GHS):

Mr. James Freeman asked the commission if any questions were generated from the November 19th report [given by Ms. Laura Freeman].

Mr. Freeman reported that the Constitution Review Committee is continuing to meet. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts that Ms. Monika Gibson, Director of Student Services, has given to the committee. Mr. Freeman hopes to have a draft to present to the commission by early February.

University Library Committee (ULC):

Dr. Eileen Hitchingham reported that the ULC met before Thanksgiving and (1) welcomed new graduate students and (2) talked about the effect possible budget cut-backs could have on library resources. At the commission's request, she elaborated on the impact budget cuts have had – and will have – on library operations.

University Council: No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Winter Summit: Dr. Deck invited discussion and suggestions for possible agenda items at the upcoming meeting with the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies.

Suggestions included: BS/MS Degree and other types of progressive degrees; discussion of guiding principles for crafting policies and procedures; invite people with institutional memory; judicial affairs & student life policies; student enrollment and timelines [since library reports to both commissions, perhaps a discussion of the impact of possible cutbacks (and perhaps a resolution)].

Dr. Deck will share the suggestions with Dr. DePauw.

Announcements:

Ms. Nottingham described work that admissions and Gail McMillain are doing to update the ETD website. She hopes work will be completed by the beginning of spring semester. She asked commission members to share this information with their colleges and departments.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted:

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