

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

September 17, 2008

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. James Freeman, Ms. Laura Freeman, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Mr. Thomas Martin, Ms. Penny McCallum, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Hanna Swiger, Dr. Muzzo Uysal for Dr. Sue Murrmann

Absent with Notification: M. Armbruster, Dr. Richard Benson, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Ms. Evelyn Richardson

Absent without Notification: Ms. Amanda Olejarski

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Linsey Barker, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Dr. Brian Mihalik

Dr. Paul Deck, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked commission members to introduce themselves. Dr. DePauw announced that (1) a substitute was being found for Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, and (2) a Northern Virginia representative would be appointed in a few days and will be joining us at future meetings via phone or videoconferencing.

Dr. Deck described how the diverse membership of the commission is an invaluable sounding board for ideas, issues, concerns, new directions and policies.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from April 16, 2008: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Dr. François Elvinger, Chair, gave an overview of the Graduate Curriculum Committee's first meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be available at the October 1st meeting of the commission. The 4000 level courses and options were, and will continue to be, a discussion and review topic for the committee. Dr. Mihalik said that options for 4000 level courses have been sent to associate deans. Dr. DePauw will clarify at an upcoming meeting whether or not 4984 classes [special studies] are included in the process.

Graduate Student Appeals:

The committee members for 2008-2009 are Paul Deck, Muzzo Uysal, Tom Martin, Laura Freeman. There are currently two appeals for the committee to address.

Graduate Student Relations:

The committee will be appointed at a later date.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP):

The committee members for 2008-2009 are Joe Eska, Patrick Miller, Margaret Merrill, Cliff Shaffer, Tom Gorman.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

- The GSA had a well attended welcome back picnic the Tuesday before classes started.
- There has been one delegate meeting.
- This year, over two thirds of the 2008-2009 delegates are new members.
- Travel funds and graduate research funds are now open and accepting applications. Applications are available on the GSA's website.
- Graduate Professional School day, the GSA's major fund-raiser, will be held on September 29th. More than 90 schools are attending.
- There is an upcoming trip planned to Washington, D.C. Blacksburg delegates will stay with Northern Virginia delegates.
- The delegates are in the process of creating committees to address graduate student concerns. Also, GSA is beginning an undergraduate mentoring program.

Graduate Honor System (GHS):

The commission voted to approve the appointment of Mr. James Freeman as Chief Justice of the Graduate Honor System.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report

University Council:

Dr. Deck announced that Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan presented *CGSP 200708B, Resolution for Revision of Policy on Graduate Credit for 3000 and 4000 Level Course*, to the University Council on April 21st for a second reading. Council approved an amended proposal [attached] which removed the 3000 level course option.

Old Business:

Mr. Freeman announced that he will be continuing the review of the GHS constitution. He will invite past members of the review committee to continue their service on the committee.

New Business:

VMRCVM Grade Appeal Policy

Dr. François Elvinger introduced a document which described the background, policy and procedure for an appeal of a final DVM course grade. He asked the commission to review the document and discuss it at the next meeting. Ultimately, the revised document will be presented to University Council and the Board of Visitors.

Welcome to the committee and charge to the commission

Dr. Karen DePauw gave an update on the state of the Graduate School which included a PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint will be posted on Blackboard. In a letter to the 2008-2009 commission, Dr. DePauw asked the commission to engage in discussion and advise her on:

- Quality advising and mentoring
- Scholarly Integrity, Ethics, Plagiarism
- Interdisciplinary graduate education and research
- Graduate Honor System constitution update
- Review and approval of new & extended graduate degrees identified on the Institutional Plan for Graduate Degrees (IPGD)
- Academic program review
- Required questions on admissions applications
- Professional Science Master's degree
 - Policy and procedures review including
 - ETD, copyright and fair use guidelines
 - Bachelor's/master's degree program

- Part-time graduate students & policies/procedures
- Quality assessment for graduate courses delivered on-line
- SACS guidelines and related procedures

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.