

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
January 19, 2011
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Kim Carlson, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Keyana Ellis, Dr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Tom Martin, Dr. Patrick Miller, Mr. Jonathan Moore, Dr. Aaron Purcell, Dr. Susan Short, Dr. Victoria Soghomonian, Ms. Hannah Parks, Dr. Robin Panneton, Mr. Eric Williams

Absent with Notification: Kerry Redican

Absent without Notification: Tom Grizzard, Sam Hicks, Eileen Hitchingham, Karen Hult, Cheng Lu, Katie McKee, Tom Caceci

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved.

Approval of the minutes from December 1, 2010: Approved. (Changes made already)

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Since Dr. Kerry Redican was not here, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver introduced this item. The commission approved the minutes from December 9, 2010.

Graduate Student Appeals: Dr. Aaron Purcell announced that the Appeals committee needs more time. The recommendations will be back next week.

Graduate Student Relations (GSR): No report.

DRSCAP: It was announced that Dr. Tom Grizzard cannot continue in his current role on DRSCAP. Dr. Mark Halsey was asked to call a meeting about a replacement. Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan and Dr. Mark Halsey will be at the meeting to decide who to appoint.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Mr. Jonathan Moore reported that the next meeting is moved to Tuesday because of Hokie Day. The next meeting of CGS&P will include updates from the GSA.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Ms. Kim Carlson reported that there were 22 cases last semester. Fourteen of these case are going to discussion. There are 2 special cases concerning students who have already graduated. Further information and current numbers will be presented at our next meeting. In other news, the training for GHS occurred in December. If any new panelists are needed, Dr. Carlson will put that together and tell everyone her results.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Eileen Hitchingham is retiring February 1, 2011. Dr. Aaron Purcell announced that the new Dean of Libraries will join us for our March 15th meeting. He is Dr. Walters from Georgia.

University Council: Dr. Kerry Redican substituted for Dr. Karen Copenheaver at the last meeting of UC, but she did not hear anything. She will give us a report next time. Dean Karen DePauw reported that the 2nd reading for discontinued degrees has occurred.

Graduate School Update: Dean Karen DePauw announced several updates.

Ethics and Scholarly Integrity—the Center for Ethics and Scholarly Integrity will be housed at the Institute for Society Culture and Environment (ISCE). The mission for the ISCE has been expanded so that the Center for Ethics and Scholarly Integrity can be housed there. It should not be in the Graduate School or under the Provost's office. Bethany Flora, Jack Finney, the Graduate School, and the Provost's office will work on starting the Center. They are talking about making this a director-less Center. It will involve teaching, engagement, advising and mentoring. More information will be available later. This is more of an effort than a physical space.

Working group on Statistics courses—Dr. Eric Smith came to see Dean DePauw and many others have talked to her about duplication of Statistics courses. They want to relieve DRSCAP from the responsibility and get a meeting and discussion going about inadequate Statistics course and duplications. Dr. Smith will suggest who should be meeting about this subject.

Students Relations Committee / Expectations and Culture—A draft of the Student Relations Committee's report is forthcoming. The committee and Dean DePauw will revise this report and pick what to include. A discussion took place about having a policy on bullying or anti-bullying. Should it entail policy or guidelines? We should know more in February.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: Food and drink at defenses (communication from Dr. Osman Balci)—Currently there is no policy either way. A discussion took place about the subject. Dean DePauw feels we don't need a policy, but she would like a sense of the Committee's opinions on the subject. Their comments include the following:

Is there an unwritten expectation that a student bring food and drinks to their defense?

Should the decision whether to have food and drink at a defense be a department policy?

It is not about bribery.

Do some professors or advisors bring food or should the student bring food?

They are not forced to do so, but do they feel it is mandatory?

It is a nice gesture for the faculty.

In some cases it is a financial or time-consuming hardship for the student (or their spouse), which is particularly wrong. One student spent \$200 on the event.

It is an added stressor and could be viewed like a contest.

It promotes a culture of success, not necessarily just bringing food.

Dr. Robin Panneton banned the practice for her students, or she elects to bring the food.

Whatever the decision, how do we tell students about this? We could produce a GSA article or put the information in the GSA policy guide as a comment. Should we make a strong recommendation and not a policy statement?

The reply to Dr. Balci will be that this practice is not policy. Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver will write him and Dean DePauw will also respond. The options they will mention are the following:

The department buys
A dollar limit should be imposed
The student should be told it is not required
We can consider putting it in the Expectations and Culture document
It could be put in department's handbooks

Announcements: The GLC has just received an innovation award. It will be presented at a national conference in Baltimore. Members from the GLC will be present to accept the award.

Reminder: all items for the next CGS&P agenda need to be given to Nancy Feuerbach the Friday before the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Mary A. Madis, on behalf of
Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education