

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

January 20, 2010

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Kimberly Carlson, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Dr. Paul Deck, Mr. Jonathan Duggins, Dr. Joe Eska, Dr. Tom Grizzard, Mr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Tom Martin, Ms. Michelle McLeese, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Ms. Gail McMillan for Dr. Aaron Purcell, Dr. Kerry Redican, Mr. Reghu Anguswamy, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Penny McCallum for Dr. Susan Short, Ms. Hannah Swiger, Ms. Catherine Tredick

Absent with Notification: Dr. Don Leo for Dr. Richard Benson, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Robin Panneton for Dr. Daniel Wubah

Absent without Notification: None

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Joan Hirt, Dr. Laura Jensen, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Patrick Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved with one amendment. Drs. Hirt and Jensen will present their concerns about PhD residency requirements before the “Committee Reports”.

Approval of the minutes from December 2, 2009: Approved.

New Business:

Dr. Joan Hirt, Education Leadership and Policy Studies, and Dr. Laura Jensen, Chair and Associate Professor, CPAP described difficulties their Ph.D. students were encountering in meeting Ph.D. residency requirements. Student concerns fall under three areas: predictability and stability, achievable and reasonable standards of residency, and equity issues.

Following discussion, Dr. Miller referred the issue to DRSCAP.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Dr. Joe Eska reviewed the minutes from December 10th, 2009. The minutes were approved. Dr. Eska noted that Dr. Wubah’s office is developing an online course proposal system that GCC hopes to adopt.

Graduate Student Appeals: The 2008-2009 appeals committee has completed all their case work and submitted their recommendations to Dr. Karen DePauw. The current committee has finished with an appeal as well, and has made a recommendation to Dr. DePauw.

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

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

- Ms. Michelle McLeese announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21st.
- Last week the GSA and Graduate School co-hosted a free meal attended by over 200 people. The GSA will include this popular event in their future budget planning.

- Jonathan Duggins introduced Mr. Reghu Anguswamy, the new GSA representative from Northern Virginia.
- Graduate students will be participating in “Hokie Day” in Richmond on February 3rd.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Ms. Kim Carlson, Chief Justice, reported that the GHS was down to two cases. Eight of the ten fall cases have accepted the new facilitated discussion process. The GHS is currently training facilitators.

University Library Committee (ULC): The library committee has not met this semester. Dr. Eileen Hitchingham gave an update of the review of the strategic plan. The Provost’s response to the recommendations he has received was very positive.

University Council: The council has not met this semester.

NRC Doctoral Study Working Group: Dr. Janet Rankin

Dr. Rankin reported that Dean DePauw organized and met with representatives of each college to develop a response to the NRC report due out any day. We will have a website and a PR person assigned to the response, as well. The report is based on data collected in 2006, so the working group anticipates that much will have changed.

NCR Associate Dean / Director Search: Dr. Rankin reported that two candidates were interviewed, and one candidate has been offered the position. Negotiations are in progress.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Approval Forms for ETDs and Examination Cards: Dr. Tom Martin expressed concern over the requirement to obtain original signatures on Graduate School forms, in particular, the ETD form. Dr. Rankin said that while the Graduate School likes original signatures, they will accept faxed signatures. Dr. Rankin noted that the form does state “original signatures” are required. Dr. Rankin stated that the Graduate School needs to make sure that all staff are aware that faxed signatures are acceptable.

Dr. Rankin updated the commission on the inability of e-tokens to address the [electronic signature] needs of the Graduate School population (including students). Dr. DePauw has asked Mr. Jeremy Sippel, the Graduate School IT Manager, to find a solution in-house. Mr. Sippel will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the status of electronic signatures at the Graduate School.

Announcements:

- Dr. Miller announced that a new item will be added to future agendas, “Graduate School Update”.
- Dr. Miller asked commission members to let him know if they were having difficulty accessing Scholar postings.
- Friday, January 22nd, the GSA is sponsoring a social at the Graduate Life Center.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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