

## **Minutes**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

**April 1, 2015**

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Graduate School Conference Room**

Present: Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Nathan Carter, Mr. Matthew Chan, Dr. Cyril Clarke, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Kira Dietz, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Ms. Ashley Francis, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, Dr. Saul Halfon, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Dr. James Jones, Mr. Timothy Kinoshita, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Cliff Ragsdale, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Gary Seidel, Ms. Maria Stack, and Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah,

Absent with Notification: Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Kathyne McConnell, Dr. Scott Salom, and Ms. Sally Wieringa.

Absent without Notification: Dr. Charlene Eska, Ms. Ashley Folden, and Dr. Tyler Walters.

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Muhammed Hajj, Dr. Jennifer Hodgson, and Srinath Ekkad.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robinson at 3:30 p.m.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

The Commission approved the agenda with modifications to the order of topics to accommodate our guests.

### **Correction of the minutes from October 15, 2014**

The corrections to the minutes were approved.

### **Approval of the minutes from March 18, 2015**

The minutes were postponed for review on April 15, 2015.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Halfon, Committee Chair, reported the approval of the changes as listed in the committee minutes.

#### Graduate Student Appeals

One letter has been presented to the Dean. Another document will be presented to the dean in a few days.

#### Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP)

Dr. Robinson reported that further discussion of application procedures and the electronic signature system will be discussed in the fall.

## **Constituencies Updates**

### Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Purdy, President of the GSA, reported tomorrow night's symposium banquet will be held at the Inn. A spring wine social will be held at the University Club on Friday evening. Elections will be held at the next delegate meeting with materials due by April 5th. The graduate research development program application cycle closes this Friday.

### Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Mr. Carter, Chair, reported that a current case is being brought to closure. Another case from last semester is being wrapped up.

### University Library Committee

Ms. Dietz had no report.

## **University Council and Commission Updates**

Dr. Robinson reported there was no meeting last week.

There were no other commission updates.

## **Graduate School Update**

There was no report.

## **Old Business**

A discussion of the second reading of the *Resolution on Degree Titles on Graduate Diplomas Revising Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 89* ensued.

Dr. Robinson presented an overview of the proposed changes to the resolution with a focus on the need for accuracy on the diploma. Graduate students provided feedback from students with concerns about interdisciplinary recognition in the diploma process. An instance of an international student that must have government approval for the degree was discussed with an explanation that the government expects the degree title on the transcript. Transcripts may satisfy this need, but it is not clear if this meets the requirements of all countries. Mr. Chan observed that some departments may make a choice without student input and knowledge of student needs and concerns. Biomedical engineering has asked the question why the default was set as no title, rather than vice versa. Dr. DePauw pointed out that the biomedical degree is a joint degree with Wake Forest and that would be off the table for purposes of this conversation. Dr. DePauw recognized the concern of international student diplomas, however, she also cited other universities not listing the degree title. She provided clarification that the transcript is the legal document that would be most useful to other governments. Dr. Clarke asked if an original diploma is lost, what action would occur. Dr. DePauw said a new diploma would be issued. Dr. DePauw commented that the Graduate School would have an active role with the departments in exploring options to best support students. A motion was passed to postpone the resolution until Fall, 2015, for further discussion and to give an opportunity to review the information on the transcripts.

## **New Business**

A discussion of the *Revisions of the Intellectual Property Policy* was led by Dr. Ekkad. There has been confusion with the students regarding intellectual property and there is a need to improve entrepreneurial efforts on campus. Dr. Ekkad is seeking input on proposed language to clarify IP policy. These changes are intended to include student responsibility in IP management. The first change is that students will have ownership of their IP. There is also an effort in the new language to distinguish students from visiting scholars and volunteers. The intent to approve this language will be included in the June, 2015, BOV meeting. Dr. DePauw raised the question about students as employees and employees as students and the need to ensure care in clarification of the language. Dr. DePauw will pursue language clarification with Steve Capaldo.

A discussion ensued regarding the *Deletion of Untaught Courses Presidential Policy Memorandum 232*. A motion was approved to ratify the deletion of untaught courses.

A discussion was led by Dr. Hodgson on the *Resolution to Adopt a New Honor Code for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Students at Virginia Tech*. The code distinguishes a code for DVM students and not masters and research students. The previous code was not working well and had not been revised in 35 years. Investigations would be led by the Graduate School Honor system members. The current Honor Board developed this code; DVM students voted and endorsed the retirement of the old code and adopt the new code. This change has been endorsed by the faculty and the governance structure in the Vet-Med school. A letter has also been received endorsing the honor code change from the dean at the University of Maryland. An effort is being made to implement this code in the Fall, 2015. This requires a waiver of the second reading. Mr. Carter discussed his review and discussion with students, as well as consideration for conflict of interest and clarifying language to indicate students from the same class should not be represented on the hearing panel. Dr. Halfon asked for clarification as to how this impacts the relationship with the University Maryland. Dr. Hodgson responded that all students are enrolled at Virginia Tech and this code covers all DVM students at Virginia Tech. Dual enrolled students are never enrolled in both programs on both campuses at the same time and would need to report through the school of their enrollment. Mr. Purdy moved to suspend the rules. The Commission approved the motion. Mr. Purdy made a motion to waive the second reading of the honor code resolution and the motion was approved. The commission then moved to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was approved.

The rules were then reinstated by the Commission.

A motion was proposed and approved to extend the meeting time to 5:05 p.m.

Dr. Robinson led a discussion on the response to the Commission on Research regarding the proposed policy on self-plagiarism. A question was presented regarding the meaning of prominent researcher. There is general consent that this document should go forward to the Commission on Research.

Based on university governance guidance, Dr. Halfon accepted his role as chair of the Commission for 2015-16; Dr. Seidel was nominated as vice chair. All were in favor and the election was finalized.

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/

Ms. Marilyn R. King on behalf of  
Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education