

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
November 20, 2013
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Ms. Beth Alley, Mr. Matt Banfield, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Dr. Cyril Clark, Ms. Kara Dietz, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Saul Halfon, Mr. Mordecai Harvey for Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Mayuresh Patil, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Gary Seidel, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: \Ms. Samantha Erwin, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Dr. James Jones

Absent without Notification: Dr. Tyler Walters

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin, Dr. Katrina Powell, Ms. Vanessa Ruccolo, Mr. Ryan Rideau

Dr. Joe Eifert, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of the minutes from November 6, 2013: Approved with minor changes.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC)

Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah reviewed the meeting minutes from November 14th. The minutes were accepted for filing.

Graduate Student Appeals

The committee has one more case pending.

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

The committee is working on the continuous enrollment policy, including reviewing policies of our SCHEV peers. They will also be discussing (1) cross-listing of courses between departments as well as (2) including the degree name on diplomas.

Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Mr. Mordecai Harvey reported:.

- The “Little Hokies Donate and Swap 2013” on November 13 was successful.
- The last event of the semester was held today: Cupcakes with the Dean. It was well attended.
- GSA has hired a travel fund chair.
- GSA will be hiring a Research Symposium Chair. They will also be asking for volunteers for this event.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)

Mr. Jordon Booker reported that their one open case from last spring will be resolved on Monday. Currently there are two cases which may be eligible for facilitated discussion.

University Library Committee

No report.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council

Dr. Eifert reported that the resolution for a B.S. in nanoscience, spring 2015, was passed.

There were no commission updates.

Graduate School Updates: Dr. Karen DePauw

- A resolution to create a Faculty of Health Sciences was passed by the Board of Visitors.
- University Legal Counsel is aware of the impact of the health insurance fraud on grant funding. Dr. DePauw learned that approximately 13,000 graduate students were impacted, as well.
- A committee met recently to discuss reimbursements to graduate students and tax implications. Essentially, Dr. DePauw learned that everything received is taxable unless it is a business expense. Dr. DePauw's position is that the business of the university is education. Scholarships are taxable; qualified scholarships are not (tuition, fees, equipment, books, supplies) taxable. International students are taxed on reimbursements received through scholarship funds. Dr. DePauw will update the commission as she learns more.

Old Business

None

New Business

- First Reading, Degree Proposal: M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies: Dr. Katrina Powell reviewed the degree proposal and answered questions. Commission members were invited to send additional questions to Dr. Eifert or Dr. DePauw. The proposal will be on the December 4th agenda for a second reading.
- Enrollment Requirements for the Graduate Cooperative Education Program (CEP): Dr. Robinson presented a resolution developed by DRSCAP to address an inequity in fee charges for graduate students enrolled in Cooperative Education. International students must have CPT (Curricular Practical Training), an immigration status, to participate in a CEP. Undergraduate students enroll in one CPT credit and pay \$50.00. Graduate students must enroll in three credits and pay full tuition. Dr. Eifert will ask the budget office to weigh in. The resolution will be on the agenda at the December 4th meeting.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, on behalf of

Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education