

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

December 2, 2009

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Dr. Don Leo for Dr. Richard Benson, Ms. Tracey Cameron for Ms. Kimberly Carlson, Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Dr. Paul Deck, Mr. Jonathan Duggins, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Joe Eska, Dr. Tom Grizzard via videoconference, Mr. Mark Halsey, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Thomas Martin, Ms. Michelle McLeese, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Stephen Skripak for Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Aaron Purcell, Ms. Nasim Sabounchi via videoconference, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Dr. Susan Short, Ms. Hannah Swiger, Dr. Robin Panneton for Dr. Daniel Wubah

Absent with Notification: Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Kerry Redican

Absent without Notification:

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Ennis McCrery, Dr. Carla Finkelstein

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

Approval of the agenda: Dr. Miller announced that Dr. Carla Finkelstein, Chair, Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, would be attending the commission meeting to discuss the UG / G program. Dr. Miller asked the commission to allow Dr. Finkelstein to begin her discussion as soon as she arrived rather than waiting for "Old Business". The agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of minutes from November 18, 2009: The minutes were approved with a change in the language describing the new operating procedures; a change referencing the November 12 meeting date; and a change in the description of Virginia Tech's upcoming NRC assessment response.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): No report

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): The committee plans to meet early in 2010 on the graduate student employment issue.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Ms. Michelle McLeese reported that the most recent meeting was held on November 19, 2009 and agenda items included:

- Ms. Sara Mitchell, Editor-in-Chief, Collegiate Times, gave a short presentation at the meeting and asked for contributions from graduate students
- Update on research symposium
- GSA proposing changes to by-laws
- Hokie Day is coming up and this year graduate students will participate
- There was a tailgate for graduate students before break
- GSA is advertising holiday present program
- GSA newsletter went out
- Chile lunch was provided for students before Thanksgiving break; event was privately funded and GSA would like to help with costs in future

The next GSA meeting is scheduled for late January.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Ms. Tracey Cameron reported that the GHS is finishing up their spring and summer cases.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Eileen Hitchingham reviewed the minutes from the October 20th meeting, in particular, the status of the library's budget. Dr. Hitchingham will let commission members know when letters of support would be useful in continuing / maintaining library funding as part of the strategic plan mid-term review.

University Council: No report. The next meeting will be December 7th. The UG/G resolution is on the agenda.

New Business

Winter Summit 2010: The commission agreed that they would like to continue the annual meeting in January with the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies. Various discussion topics were suggested, including identifying student support services for graduate students, student life issues, and diversity programs and initiatives. Dr. Finkielstein and Dr. Miller will continue to discuss possible January agenda items.

Dr. Mallikarjunan asked the commission about the possibility of adding another graduate student to DRSCAP. Dr. Deck suggested we add another graduate student position to the commission. The commission will consider creating a resolution to add another graduate student to the commission.

Old Business:

Accelerated undergraduate / graduate program:

Dr. Finkielstein thanked the commission for the work done on the proposal and praised the UG/G program.

Dr. Carla Finkielstein asked the commission to reconsider two issues in the CGS&P resolution being presented to University Council on December 7:

- (1) at most twelve credits may be used and
- (2) a minimum grade of 3.5

Following discussion, the commission felt that the resolution as submitted gave departments enough internal control to restrict their own credit requirements further

Motion: Should an amendment be put forward at the University Council meeting to amend the CGS&P resolution "2009-10A, Resolution for Accelerated Undergraduate / Graduate Degree Program" to read "a minimum GPA of 3.3" from "a minimum GPA of 3.5", the Chair of the commission, Dr. Patrick Miller would accept a friendly amendment" [to lower] the GPA requirement to 3.3.

The motions passed: 11 commission members in favor and 8 commission members opposed.

New Business: None.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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