Minutes  
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies  
February 19, 2014  
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  
Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Mr. Matt Banfield, Dr. Chad Bolding, Mr. Jordon Booker, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Kara Dietz, Ms. Samantha Erwin, Dr. Kay Dunkley, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Alireza Haghighat via videoconference, Dr. Saul Halffon, Dr. Bernice Hausman, Dr. James Jones, Mr. Greg Purdy, Dr. Hans Robinson, Dr. Gary Seidel, Dr. Tyler Walters, Dr. Christopher Zobel

Absent with Notification: Dr. Cyril Clarke, Ms. Nancy Dudek, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Dr. Elankumaran Subbiah, Ms. Sally Wieringa

Absent without Notification: Dr. Mayuresh Patil

Visitors and Invited Guests: Ms. Janice Austin

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved. Dr. Eifert asked the commission if the item under new business, Resolution 2013-14 AEE Department Name Change, could be moved following “Approval of the minutes” on the agenda so that Drs. Susan Sumner and Rick Rudd wouldn’t need to attend most of the meeting. The commission approved.

Approval of the minutes from February 5, 2014: Approved with minor corrections.

New Business: Resolution 2013-14 F AEE Department Name Change
Drs. Sumner and Rudd explained the request for the name change. Following discussion, the commission voted to waive the second reading of the resolution, and approved the resolution with some editorial amendments. The amended document will be sent to commission members. The resolution will go before CUSP for a second reading for approval before it is presented to University Council.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC)
No report.

Graduate Student Appeals
There were two cases. One recommendations has already gone to the dean. The committee will be preparing a second recommendation to the dean.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP): Dr. Robinson updated the commission on the beginnings of the continuous enrollment policy discussion. He explained the purpose of the continuous enrollment policy (i.e. timely degree completion) and reviewed the information on what our SCHEV peers are doing to ensure timely degree completion. He suggested tightening up our leave of absence policy, perhaps creating an in-absentia status. The committee also discussed the availability of university resources to students, e.g., University Library resources. Dr. Tyler will look into current issues students may face with a variable enrollment status. The committee will work with the budget office to determine costs of university services. Dr. Hausman asked that cost analysis be done by program area. Dr. Robinson would also like to consider a discussion of “maximum time to degree”. Dr. DePauw is hoping that DRSCAP can also include summer status in some of their conversations. Some conversation and discussion followed clarifying issues associated with summer status.
Constituencies Updates

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)
Mr. Greg Purdy thanked commission members for sending the e-mails about upcoming GSA elections. He said the GSA is still encouraging students to apply for membership on the Board of Visitors Graduate Student Representative nominating committee. The Research Symposium website is being re-built. Currently, the goal is for judges to be able to sign up by next week.

Graduate Honor System (GHS)
Mr. Booker reported that the GHS had just held an appeal. Four cases are still open.

University Library Committee
The committee has not met. They are still working on the library budget letter.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council: The council approved an undergraduate microbiology major. The resolution to establish a Master of Arts degree in Women’s and Gender studies was presented for a first reading. The co-op resolution put forward by the commission may be on the next agenda.

Faculty Senate: Dr. Hausman reported a groundswell of interest in giving the Faculty Senate a more important role in university governance. Dr. DePauw suggested bringing the plagiarism issue before the Faculty Senate, and Dr. Hausman asked Dr. DePauw to present the issue at an upcoming meeting. Dr. Hausman will contact Dr. Merola to outline an approach for an upcoming meeting. Mr. Booker will attend the meeting as well. Mr. Purdy noted that student and staff governance groups were also expressing an interest in a more active role in governance.

Graduate School Updates: Dr. Karen DePauw
Dr. DePauw briefly reviewed the degree and certificate changes [handout]. The document was for commission review only, and needed no governance action.

Old Business: There was a discussion about the degree name on the diploma.

Mr. Purdy requested that DRSCAP consider a name change for Defending Student Status (DSS) that would be less confusing to students who still misunderstood its application.

Announcements
None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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