

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

February 5, 2003

3:30 PM — 4:30PM

206 Sandy Hall

Present: Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. David de Wolf, Dr. Klaus Elgert, Dr. Ruth Grene, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Mr. Brian Johnson, Dr. Rakesh Kapania, Ms. Megan Madden, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Kent Murrmann, Ms. Mary Schaeffer

Absent with Notification: Dr. Stephen Boyle, Dr. Ms. Laura Fornash, Dr. David M. Moore, Dr. John Ney, Mr. Anthony Scardina, Dr. Mehdi Setareh, Ms. Miya Simpson, Ms. Angie Webb, Dr. Brenda Winkel

Absent without Notice: Mr. Nick Amico, Mr. Murali Krishnan Gunasekaran

Invited Guests: Dr. Roger Avery, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Ms. Nancy Feuerbach,

Dr. Ruth Grene called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from January 15, 2002: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee: Minutes from January 15, 2003 meeting were approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: Dr. de Wolf reported that there was an on-going appeal. The review panel will be meeting in the near future. The commission accepted the report.

Graduate Student Relations: Ms. Margaret Merrill reminded the commission that the committee still had a faculty vacancy. Ms. Merrill stated that Rights and Responsibility committee had not met since December 2003. Ms. Merrill complimented the student members of the Rights and Responsibilities committee on their intelligent contribution and dedication. Dr. Grene will invite a faculty member currently serving on the commission to fill the vacancy on the Graduate Student Relations committee. The commission accepted the report.

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

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Ms. Megan Madden reported that the GSA was in the process of selecting a new graduate student representative to the Board of Visitors. The GSA is continuing their discussion of health care issues. The commission accepted the report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Mr. Brian Johnson reported that the GHS had nine active cases. Five cases are from the Northern Virginia Center (NVC). Mr. Johnson and Ms. Monika Gibson visited the center in order to develop strategies to decrease the number of violations. The majority of the cases will go to the judicial panel to determine guilt or innocence. Plagiarism, or Cut and paste are the primary violations. Because so many students are off-campus, hearings must be arranged via phone. The commission accepted the report.

University Library Committee: Dr. Eileen Hitchingham reported that the committee met last week. The minutes will be forwarded to the commission. A topic discussed at the committee meeting was the recent financial difficulties of RoweCom, a subscription agency that provides services to libraries. RoweCom filed for bankruptcy at the end of January. RoweCom is one of several of Virginia Tech's subscription agents. Subscription agencies are prepaid for the publications; the agencies, in turn, pay the publishers. Some publishers have been willing to allow a grace period and will continue to send 2003 publications. Dr. Hitchingham emphasized that the goal of the library was to secure the publications that are needed by the university community.

Old Business: Dr. Avery reported that he had presented the amended Presidential Policy No. 1 [Procedures for Evaluation of the Progress of Graduate Students] to the University Council for a first reading. The amendment will be put in the form of a motion for the second reading. During the discussion of this amendment at the University Council meeting, the suggestion was made to consider excluding non-thesis graduate students from the annual review process. Dr. DePauw noted that the GPA could be considered part of an evaluation. Ms. Madden added that the Plan of Study and GPA would be sufficient to determine satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress. In addition, Dr. DePauw stated, "Each graduate student deserves feedback." The process protects the student, the department, and the university. The commission decided to include non-thesis graduate students in the review process requirement; the policy will apply to all graduate students. The commission voted to stand by the document's intent as originally proposed by the commission. Dr. Grene will attend the University Council meeting scheduled for February 17, 2003.

New Business: Dr. Avery suggested inviting the director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and/or the director of Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. to a commission meeting.

Announcements: None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School