

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
December 1, 2004
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
206 Sandy Hall

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Klaus Elgert, Professor Bill Galloway, Ms. Lauren Good, Mr. Steven Hall, Dr. Rakesh Kapania, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Donald Orth, Dr. Fred Richardson for Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Nan Seamans, Dr. Susan Short

Conference call in: Professor Ron Kagawa

Absent with Notification: Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. François Elvinger, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Ms. Chris Thomas, Ms. Angie Webb

Absent without notification: Dr. Jerry Niles, Ms. Yvette Quintela, Mr. Terrell Strayhorn

Invited Guests: Dr. Roger Avery, Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, Dr. Sherri Turner

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from November 17, 2004: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): No report.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Dr. Scott Case initiated discussion on the possibility and/or interest in developing a “graduate faculty” at Virginia Tech. Dr. Avery reported that 5 SCHEV peers responded to a request for information about the existence of a graduate faculty at their institutions, and results were mixed. Dr. DePauw suggested that a reason to explore having a graduate faculty would be to have an identified body of faculty members who have the primary responsibility for graduate education. The existence of a graduate faculty would help to clarify issues such as who can chair committees, who can serve on committees, who are the faculty who have responsibility for program review, etc. Dr. Rakesh Kapania expressed concern that institutionalizing a graduate faculty 1) would have substantial initial and recurrent costs (one would have to go through it every five years or so for this to be effective) in terms of faculty time; 2) it would lead to even more centralization as the decision rests with just two people, the department head and the dean of Graduate School; and 3) at least in the college of engineering, there is not a great demand for such a designation.

Dr. Elgert suggested that input/opinion be sought from faculty (represented by the commission) about this issue. The commission charged DRSCAP with defining the potential role of the graduate faculty and their credentials.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

Old Business:

- Resolution: Information Skills for Graduate Students

Dr. Seamans reviewed changes to the “Addendum to the Resolution from the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies: Information Skills for Graduate Students”. Dr. Seamans and the commission stressed the importance of creating an “awareness” of the importance of acquiring information management skills. Suggestions were made on how to incorporate an awareness of information management into a plan of study, perhaps as a “named comment”. The commission will also seek input from graduate students. Dr. Seamans will then incorporate suggestions into a revised document.

- Response from Dr. Sedki Riad, VT-MENA program

Dr. DePauw stressed the importance of the commission’s participation in the program review process. Commission feedback is presented to the provost and the University Council.

The MENA program reflects an existing degree extending to a new site. Following discussion, the commission agreed to approve the program under 2 conditions: (1) proposal should be limited initially to master's degrees and (2) a detailed plan is documented for faculty who will teach in the program. Dr. Elgert will develop the commission’s response incorporating the discussion items and concerns

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

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