

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

January 19, 2005

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

206 Sandy Hall

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Klaus Elgert, Dr. François Elvinger, Professor Bill Galloway, Ms. Lauren Good, Dr. Rakesh Kapania, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. Nancy McGehee for Dr. Sue Murrmann, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Jerry Niles, Ms. Yvette Quintela, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short, Mr. Terrell Strayhorn, Ms. Chris Thomas

Absent with Notification: Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Ron Daniel, Mr. Steven Hall, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Professor Ron Kagawa, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Ms. Angie Webb

Absent without notification: Dr. Don Orth

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from December 1, 2004: Approved. Dr. Elgert noted that Dr. DePauw had contacted Dr. Riad and had not received a response.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from December 9, 2004 were approved. Mr. Marvin Foushee asked that the minutes reflect that CSES 4164 is cross-listed with Biology 4164, ENSC 4164 and CEE 4164.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): No report. The committee is meeting January 26th. Ms. Margaret Merrill, who is replacing Dr. Nan Seamans on the commission, agreed to serve on this committee.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): The minutes of the December 7th, 2004 were distributed to the commission [electronically] prior to the commission meeting. Dr. Hitchingham was absent from the meeting, but may wish to review/discuss the minutes at a future meeting.

Old Business:

VT – MENA Program: Following discussion, the commission voted to recommend that the program be (1) approved for masters' level only and (2) a detailed plan is documented for faculty who will teach in the program as well as for program evaluation. Dr. Kapania abstained.

Dr. Elgert asked for input/suggestions from the commission for the upcoming meeting between the commission chairs and the provost. Items previously suggested were: business plan for graduate education for increasing Ph.D. enrollment and strong graduate community; institutional plan for graduate education and implementation plan; review and approval of new and extended degree process; graduate program review process and implementation plan; recruitment and retention issues; impact of chartered university initiative on graduate education; health insurance for graduate students; nine vs. twelve month pay for teaching assistants; policy and procedure reviews including residency requirements for doctoral students; pass/fail for research hours; quality assessment for graduate courses delivered online; visiting graduate students and limit of credits; withdrawal and drop policies; and enrollment / assistantship appointments.

Some of these items have already been addressed. Dr. Elgert encouraged commission members to seek input from their departments, as well. Additional items suggested were: development of a graduate faculty; discussion of the issues raised in the exit survey, as well as examining the actual survey; reaffirming support of library resources; exportation of existing programs within, or without, the state, and the commission's involvement.

Dr. DePauw asked that Dr. Turner give an update on "program review" at the next commission meeting.

Dr. DePauw also asked the commission to let her know how they would like to see graduate education change at Virginia Tech. Dr. Kapania expressed concern about "cushion" funding for students to bridge a break in their support. Dr. DePauw said she would like the commission to discuss how to involve more departments and faculty in mentoring and advising graduate students as junior colleagues. Teaching assistance (TA) training is another activity that is critical for this university. Dr. McNabb, new associate dean, will be visiting departments to determine what existing TA training opportunities are in place. Dr. DePauw will share the course outline for Preparing the Future Professoriate (PFP) with the commission. Dr. DePauw, through the Transformative Graduate Education program, would like every graduate student to have a PFP experience and a citizen scholar experience. There has been some interest from post doctorates and faculty in taking the PFP course.

Dr. DePauw gave an update on the progress of the "imaging system"; vendors will be on campus to present their product to a review committee. Ultimately, application submission and review will be completely electronic.

Dr. DePauw reported that forty-nine new "Ph.D. 2010 assistantships" have been allocated to colleges. By next fall, we should have at least one hundred new Ph.D. students. We are almost one-third of the way to reaching the goal of nine hundred new Ph.D. students.

Also, this fall, graduate students will be eligible to receive 70% coverage towards their health insurance premium. Dr. DePauw encouraged commission members to attend Graduate Education Week events [March 21 – 25]; some events will be held in the Donaldson Brown Center, future home of the Graduate Life Center.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 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