

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

February 15, 2006

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Room 206, Sandy Hall

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Pat Donovan, Dr. François Elvinger, Professor Bill Galloway, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Mr. Osama Marsouk, Dr. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Jerry Niles, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short, Ms. Angie Webb

Absent with Notification: Dr. Barbara Allen, Dr. Ron Daniel, Ms. Nicole James, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Mr. Brian Whitaker

Absent without Notification: Mr. Sumeet Bagai, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Don Orth,

Invited Guests: Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, Mr. Jamie Kalista, Dr. Sherri Turner

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from February 1, 2006: Approved as amended; Dr. Tom Ollendick was absent with notification.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Dr. Brian Mihalik reviewed the minutes from January 26th, 2006. The minutes were approved. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences online degree will be presented to the commission at their next meeting for a first reading.

AP faculty / staff admissions: No report.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Dr. Rude reported that there is an ongoing discussion about 4000 level courses in the graduate curriculum.

University Council: Dr. Scott Case report that the two EDP spin-off degrees and the course withdrawal policy were presented for a first reading. The PhD in Rhetoric and Writing degree was approved and the School of Construction proposal was approved.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Mr. Osama Marsouk reviewed a handout which charted the increase in student fees from 1995-96 thru 2005-06. Following a lengthy discussion in which the commission attempted to understand the structure and design of the student fee system, the commission gave up and agreed to extend an invitation to M. Dwight Shelton Jr., Vice President for Budget and Financial Management at Virginia Tech. Dr. Case will invite Mr. Shelton to the next [or an upcoming] commission meeting.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Eileen Hitchingham discussed the commission's letter of support underscoring the importance of the library's importance in accomplishing the university's long-term goals in expanding the gradual and research programs. Dr. Hitchingham also reviewed the University Library Committee's letter to President Steger and Provost [1/20/06] McNamee which described the current state of library funding to the university administration. Dr. Hitchingham reviewed the University Library expenditure with those of SCHEV and top 30 peers. The commission agreed that the library discussion was critical and requested that it appear as an agenda item at the next commission meeting.

Old Business: Dr. Case requested that at the next commission meeting we revisit the issue of collaborative international degree programs. He requested feedback by Friday.

New Business: None

Announcements: Mr. Jamie Kalista reported that student activity fees increased seventeen dollars this year; this money did not go toward any student organizations. The GSA elections are in March Mr. Kalista asked commission members to encourage students with leadership abilities to run for office.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:38.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

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