

## **Minutes**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

**April 19, 2006**

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Room 206, Sandy Hall**

Present: Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Don Orth, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short

Absent with Notification: Dr. Barbara Allen, Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Ron Daniel, Ms. Pat Donovan, Prof. Bill Galloway, Ms. Nicole James, Ms. Gail McMillan, Mr. Osama Marsouk, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Jerry Niles, Mr. Brian Whitaker

Absent without Notification: Mr. Sumeet Bagai

Invited Guests: Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Mr. Jamie Kalista, Ms. Monika Gibson, Ms. Frances Keene, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham

**Approval of the agenda:** Approved.

**Approval of minutes from April 5, 2006:** Approved.

#### CSA Resolution, 2005-2006

Ms. Frances Keene, Director of Judicial Affairs, Office of Student Programs, reviewed the “Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life, Commission on Student Affairs Resolution CSA 2005-2006A”. She specifically addressed item (1): Sharing Information with the Undergraduate and Graduate Honor Systems.

Dr. DePauw expressed her concern with respect to “violation of privacy”; the resolution is currently in violation of the GHS constitution. As well, Dr. DePauw said that in her role as a decision maker, she preferred not to have information about the student that is unrelated to the academic issue under consideration.

Ms. Keene asked commission members to send her an e-mail if they had concerns about the resolution.

Dr. Case will inform University Council that the commission requests this resolution be withdrawn until next year. The commission did not feel it had enough information on this issue to make a recommendation or decision in this academic year.

#### **Committee Reports**

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from April 5 were approved with two additional courses presented by Mr. Marvin Foushee and the addition of a request for a graduate certificate approval for “Macromolecular Interfaces with Life Sciences Graduate Certificate”.

AP faculty / staff admissions subcommittee: No report.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP):

Dr. Carolyn Rude reported that DRSCAP had considered several options when discussing the issue of 4000 level graduate credits. At this point, DRSCAP does not recommend a policy change. The committee recommends adding some statements in the Graduate Catalog which would articulate the value of graduate education and describe when it would be appropriate to include a 4000 level course as a part of graduate education.

### **Other Reports**

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Mr. Jamie Kalista reported that GSA held their last meeting of the year. He announced an upcoming town election candidate forum sponsored by GSA and SGA.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Eileen Hitchingham announced that the ULC will hold its last meeting of the academic year on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Minutes from the most recent meeting are forthcoming. She reported that several statements of support have been collected. Next year there will be a focus on engaging undergraduates in a learning process, i.e., how to use information “for the rest of their life”. For the first time, the library is holding “Faculty Authors Day”, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

University Council: Dr. Scott Case reported that the online CALS degree proposal was approved.

### **NRC Doctoral Assessment Study**

Dr. Karen DePauw announced that the National Research Council (NRC) is conducting an assessment of research doctorates. Virginia Tech should be getting an official letter from the NRC in April notifying us that we can participate; the study should be complete by December 2006. Dr. DePauw has been named the “institutional coordinator”. She will keep the commission informed and involved in the process.

The website is: <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/resdoc/index.html>

Dr. DePauw will attach a PowerPoint presentation to the April 19<sup>th</sup> minutes.

### **VT MENA Report**

The commission reviewed the VT-MENA First Semester Progress Report from Dr. Sedki Riad. The commission noted that there was only one female student and suggested that perhaps the program could address this in their recruiting efforts. The commission will send further comments and concerns to Dr. DePauw.

### **Old Business:**

The commission discussed an ongoing admissions appeal.

### **New Business:**

Dr. DePauw thanked Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short, and all of the commission members for their efforts during the 2005-2006 academic year.

**Announcements:**

Dr. DePauw invited the commission to a reception on May 16<sup>th</sup> honoring both the commission and the Graduate Curriculum Committee for their efforts.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:06

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of*

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