

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

November 2, 2005

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate Life Center / Room B

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Pat Donovan, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Ms. Nicole James, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Mr. Osama Marsouk, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Jerry Niles, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Don Orth, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short

Absent with Notification: Dr. Barbara Allen, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Gail McMillan, Dr. John Moor, Mr. Brian Whitaker, Ms. Angie Webb

Absent without Notification: Mr. Sumeet Bagai, Professor Bill Galloway

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved with the addition of two items: (1) under Old Business, a discussion of “Graduate Faculty” and (2) under New Business, a discussion of electronic voting.

Approval of minutes from October 19, 2005: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from October 13 were approved. Dr. Brian Mihalik reviewed two EDP spin-off degrees, “Planning Governance & Globalization” and “Architecture & Design Research” which were approved by the committee. Dr. Hitchingham questioned whether library facilities would be adequate. Dr. DePauw explained that the spin-off degrees were a “repackaging” of current programs, so that existing resources would be sufficient. It was suggested that a critique of library resources would be appropriate as part of the college level review process.

The spin-off degrees will be an agenda item [Old Business] for consideration at the November 16th meeting.

The doctoral degree programs in “Geospatial and Environmental Analysis” and “Rhetoric and Writing” have been approved by the commission and will be presented to University Council in resolution format.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

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

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Mr. Jamie Kalista reported on the meetings of two groups who are studying: (1) summer status for graduate students and (2) insurance coverage for graduate students. Dr. Hitchingham expressed some concern about summer status for graduate students as it affects availability of campus resources for students. She encouraged a systemic solution for this recurring problem that negatively impacts graduate students in a variety of ways. Mr. Kalista also announced that GSA will have a representative on the Institutional Review Board.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Hitchingham reviewed the ULC minutes from October 6, 2005.

The university library has joined with the College of Architecture to study the possibility of “graduate spaces”.

Old Business:

School of Construction: Dr. Case asked the commission to send questions / concerns to him electronically. He will ask Dr. Mike Vorster to address these concerns. The November 16th commission meeting will be the second reading of the proposal, and an opportunity for concerns of commission members to be addressed. Dr. Mihalik asked if the new school could negatively impact the “Architecture & Design Research” PhD degree.

Graduate Faculty: Dr. Case reported that the results of a faculty survey did not indicate an expressed need for the creation of a graduate faculty as a separate entity. The recommendation of DRSCAP was to leave the current policy “as is”. Dr. DePauw will be asking departments to identify their graduate program faculty. Ms. Nicole James noted that it would be helpful for graduate students to be able to identify faculty most familiar with graduate programs and progress to degree issues.

New Business:

Drs. Jerzey Nowak and J. Roger Harris have petitioned the commission to reduce the course hour requirements for a Ph.D. in the Department of Horticulture from 31 credit hours to a minimum of 20 credit hours. Dr. DePauw reminded commission members that they have approved that departments may petition the commission for a reduction in course hour requirements. Thus far, the biology and chemistry departments have been the only Ph.D. programs to request a reduction in hours. Following discussion, the commission voted to accept the proposal, effective fall 2006. Commission members requested that Dr. DePauw express their concern that adequate statistics courses were included in the plans of study for graduate students to ensure that students have the appropriate tools for data collection and analysis.

Following discussion, the commission agreed to continue the practice of presenting and approving reports during scheduled meetings, rather than electronically circulating and approving reports prior to the scheduled meetings.

Announcements:

Dr. DePauw has electronically posted the “October Monthly Memo” and attached the Institutional Plan for Degrees with the annual call for proposals for degrees. A plan for the upcoming year will be developed from the submitted proposals as well as a “wish list”.

Mr. Kalista announced that the Graduate Student Assembly was holding a delegate meeting on Thursday and invited commission members to attend. The commission will be invited to the next GSA social.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 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