

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

October 19, 2005

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate Life Center / Room B

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Pat Donovan, Dr. François Elvinger, Ms. Nicole James, Mr. Osama Marsouk, Dr. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Jerry Niles, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short

Absent with Notification: Dr. Barbara Allen, Professor Bill Galloway, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. John Moore, Mr. Brian Whitaker

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

Invited Guests: Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Dr. Larry Grossman, Mr. Jamie Kalista

Approval of the agenda: Dr. Scott Case called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda. Under “Old Business”, he requested that the commission approve the addition of a discussion of the proposed School of Construction. The agenda was approved with one addition.

Approval of minutes from October 5, 2005: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Dr. Brian Mihalik reported that he had received no comments from the commission on the two new doctoral degree programs presented at the October 5th meetings, (1) Geospatial and Environmental Analysis and (2) English in Rhetoric and Writing. He asked for a motion to approve the proposals. Ms. Nicole James did not receive copies of the proposals. The commission agreed to postpone a vote until Friday in order to allow Ms. James time to review the proposals. The vote will be electronic.

Dr. Brian Mihalik reported that GCC was looking at a proposal for a certificate. The revisions discussed and approved by the commission at the March 2, 2005 will be used in the review process.

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 that the GSA has formed several new committees including (1) summer status for graduate students (2) a cabinet committee composed of graduate student representatives appointed to all commissions and committees and (3) a health insurance forum. Mr. Kalista announced that all applications are in for the travel fund program and the research development program. Dr. Mihalik expressed some concern for students whose requests would fall in a “transitional” period in the academic calendar. Mr. Kalista suggested setting aside a pool of money for special conditions such as

summer conferences with an adjusted application timeframe. Dr. DePauw suggested two cycles, January through June and July through December. Mr. Kalista will review and adapt the current system. Dr. Murrmann recommended a clarification that included who is eligible, and during which cycle. Dr. Case asked about the status of the parking lot across from Squires. Mr. Kalista described the current and potential populations that could use the parking lot.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

Old Business:

Dr. Case reminded the commission that when items are voted on electronically, the absence of a response indicates a positive vote. Comments and concerns about the new degree proposals are due by Friday, October 21st, 2005.

School of Construction proposal: Dr. Case stated that Dr. Vorster wished to move forward with the proposal and present it formally to the commission. Dr. Case suggested that the commission review an electronic copy of the proposal and invite Dr. Vorster to an upcoming meeting to address any concerns. The commission will discuss the proposal at the next meeting, and then vote at the subsequent meeting.

New Business:

EDP spin-off degrees: Dr. Mihalik reported that the curriculum committee has approved the Planning Governance and Globalization [UAP] spin-off degree with minor revisions. The committee had some concerns about the Architecture, Design and Research spin-off degree.

Announcements:

Dr. DePauw will send commission members the results of the Graduate School entry (individuals who were admitted, not necessarily enrolled) and exit surveys.

The Graduate School is advertising an associate dean position. Screening will begin November 1st, 2005. Dr. Anne McNabb is chairing the search committee.

There is a fellowship reception immediately following the commission meeting for Virginia Tech students who have graduate fellowships from the Graduate School.

Dr. Tom Ollendick described the distinguished lecturer event featuring Dr. Michael Gazzaniga as “a peak event” for faculty and students. Dr. DePauw announced that the Graduate School Distinguished Lecturer Series is made possible by a donation from Dr. and Mrs. McNamee.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 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