

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

October 5, 2005

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate Life Center / Room B

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. David Ford for Dr. Ron Daniel, Professor Bill Galloway, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Ms. Nicole James, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Mr. Osama Marsouk, Dr. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Don Orth, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short

Absent with Notification: Dr. Barbara Allen, Dr. Scott Case, Ms. Pat Donovan, Mr. Brian Whitaker

Absent without Notification: Mr. Sumeet Bagai, Dr. Jerry Niles

Invited Guests: Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Mr. Jamie Kalista, Dr. Mike Vorster, Ms. Angie Webb

Approval of the agenda: Dr. Kevin Davy called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda. Approved.

Approval of minutes from September 21, 2005: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from September 22nd were presented by Dr. Brian Mihalik, and approved by the commission. [see discussion of degree proposals under “New Business”]. Mr. Marvin Foushee explained that the commission approves the GCC minutes; the GCC minutes then become part of the body of the commission minutes. Commission minutes are approved by University Council. Courses are “deemed approved” at the commission level. New degree programs, revisions, or name changes, etc. need to be approved at the council level. New degrees must be approved by the Board of Visitors and then SCHEV. Mr. Foushee encouraged discussion of the Graduate Curriculum Committee’s recommendations.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Dr. Carolyn Rude described the discussion of the September 21st meeting. Possible action items and goals for the year were discussed at the meeting. The committee will conduct a comprehensive review of the policies and procedures manual. Other issues for discussion include the grading system, 5984 courses, revalidation of courses, part-time student status and other admissions categories.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Approximately 80 students attended the meeting last week. There is no new business to-date.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Mr. Greg Lemmond reviewed the report submitted electronically by Mr. Brian Whittaker, Chief Justice of the GHS.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Eileen Hitchingham described the role of the library committee in the university governance system. The ULC is a subcommittee of three different committees: the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, and the Commission on Research.

Dr. Hitchingham reviewed two agenda items from last year: (1) the introduction of a new library system and (2) borrowing, i.e. number of renewals.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Dr. Mihalik, Chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee, reviewed the (1) Doctoral Program in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis and (2) English Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Writing. Both proposals were presented to the curriculum committee in SCHEV format and were approved unanimously by the committee.

The proposals will be sent to commission members electronically. Comments and concerns should then be forwarded to Dr. Mihalik who can solicit responses from the sponsors of the proposals. Dr. Mihalik will determine if it is necessary for faculty sponsors of the proposals to be invited to the next meeting to answer specific questions

The degree programs will be an action item at the next commission meeting in order to determine if all concerns have been addressed.

Mr. Foushee noted that any approved degree program carries with it the automatic approval of the generic courses, i.e., independent study, research, thesis, dissertation, etc.

Dr. Mike Vorster, School of Construction: Dr. Vorster, David Burrows Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, presented the plans for the proposal for the School of Construction, including the plans for graduate study.

Dr. Vorster will distribute the proposal in SCHEV format to the commission when it is finalized.

Announcements: Dr. Michael Gazzaniga, graduate school distinguished lecturer, will present, “The Ethical Brain”, October 11th at 4:30 in the Graduate Life Center. Part of Dr. Gazzaniga’s Virginia Tech visit will include a lunch with graduate students as well as a conversation with faculty from the psychology department.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 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