

## Minutes

### Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

April 16, 2008

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Mr. James Freeman, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Mr. John Kane, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Chris Thomas

Absent with Notification: Ms. Linsey Barker, Dr. Jim Collier, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Joe Eska, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Ms. Penny McCallum, Ms. Evelyn Richardson, Dr. Glenda Scales, Dr. Gerhardt Schurig

Absent without Notification: Ms. Margo Eggeling

Videoconference: Dr. Rosary Lalik

Visitors and Invited Guests: Dr. Truman Capone, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Mr. Joe McFadden

Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of one item, the selection of officers for the upcoming year, 2008-2009.

**Approval of minutes from April 2, 2008:** Approved, with a spelling [of name] on the last page.

## Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from March 25 and April 8 were approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: Ms. Gail McMillan distributed and reviewed the results to-date of the online survey which was sent to faculty and graduate students to assess their familiarity with the Graduate Honor System.

Dr. DePauw said a few people have signed up to use *Turnitin.com* during our free trial offer period. A reminder will be sent to the faculty via deans, directors, department head e-mail lists.

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

## Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

- Over \$10,000 has been raised for *Relay-for-Life*.
- There is one more meeting this semester and new officers will begin to transition in.
- There are plans for summer meetings as well as summer activities.

## Master of Fine Arts in Creative Technologies

Dr. Truman Capone reviewed the MFA proposal and answered questions from the commission which included concerns about professional ethics and library resources. The commission voted to approve the MFA in Creative Technologies proposal with their recommendations included.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Mr. John Kane presented the changes to the GHS constitution that were approved by the review committee. The constitution committee will incorporate some of the discussion items into the document. Ultimately, the revisions will be presented to the GSA and then the University Council. Constitution documents will be posted on Blackboard.

The GHS Constitution will be a commission agenda item in the fall.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

University Council:

Dr. DePauw reported that the *Master of Information Security Assurance* proposal was approved by University Council.

Resolution CGSP 2007-08B, Revision of Policy on Graduate Credit for 3000 and 4000 Level Courses, was presented to the council for a first reading. An edited version (attached) will be presented to the council for a second reading at their next meeting on April 21. There may be an amendment to remove the 3000 levels course option.

**Old Business:**

Bachelor's / Master's: The issue was discussed and referred back to DRSCAP.

**New Business:**

Dr. Lalik asked for clarification of the statement "These committee members agree that this student's thesis/dissertation is ready for defense" found on the form, *Request to Admit Candidate to Final Exam*. Dr. DePauw confirmed that the statement only meant that the faculty had read the thesis/dissertation, and the student was ready to defend it.

Commission members nominated and approved Paul Deck as Chair, and Patrick Miller as Vice Chair of the 2008-2009 Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies. The position of Chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee was not filled. Invitations will be extended to select faculty.

**Announcements:** Dr. DePauw thanked Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, and the members of the commission for their leadership and participation on the commission.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

**CGSP Resolution 2007 2008C**

**Resolution for Establishment of the Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Technologies Degree in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS )**

Approval by Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies: April 2, 2008

First Reading at University Council: April 21, 2008

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

Approved by the Board of Visitors:

Effective: Fall 2009

**WHEREAS**, Creative Technologies is a newly conceived interdisciplinary approach that merges creative technology with arts, design, science and technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, Programs that marry the arts and technology support creativity, critical thinking, and problemsolving necessary to meet the demands of a 21<sup>st</sup> century marketplace; and

**WHEREAS**, The College of Architecture and Urban Studies has no current program that permits professionals whose careers or interests lie in efforts to integrate design perspectives, advanced career preparation and exposure to various aspects of creative technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, Professional advancement in most governmental agencies and in firms representing technology, science and the humanities is generally based on accomplishment and merit; and

**WHEREAS**, Professionals who hold Master's degrees in such agencies and organizations are generally viewed as more competitive for promotions than less trained peers; and

**WHEREAS**, A recent report by the Technology Alliance reported that startup technology firms are not able to recruit sufficient talent because of inadequate degree production; and

**WHEREAS**, There are approximately 40,000 projected employment openings nationally in 2009 that will require advanced degrees; and

**WHEREAS**, Graduate programs in the area of Creative Technologies are at a deficit; and

**WHEREAS**, There is a need for a MFA two year degree in Creative Technologies consisting of 60 credit hours of graduate level courses in an on campus, residential format; and

**WHEREAS**, The proposed degree will include a minimum of 18 hours in a specialization, 912 hours of art history and studio courses, 18 hours of creative technologies and electives in other disciplines and 12 hours specifically designated toward a final thesis; and

**WHEREAS**, Program success benchmarks will be based on a series of state, institutional and program criteria that take into account the guidelines established by the College Arts Association and will include the number of applicants, graduation rates, relevant job placement rates within 5 years of graduation, positive testimonials from employers, awards, prizes and residencies of graduates, contributions in art and design journals and conference presentations and recognition of submitted works by professional organizations;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the proposal for a Masters in Fine Arts degree in Creative Technologies in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies be approved and the proposal forwarded to the President, the Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) for approval.