

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

December 7, 2005

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate Life Center

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Kevin Davy, Ms. Pat Donovan, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Professor Bill Galloway, Mr. Osama Marsouk, Dr. Gail McMillan, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Don Orth, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Susan Short

Absent with Notification: Dr. Barbara Allen, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Ms. Angie Webb

Absent without Notification: Mr. Sumeet Bagai, Ms. Nicole James, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Jerry Niles, Mr. Brian Whitaker

Invited Guests: Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, Mr. Marvin Foushee

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from November 16: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from November 10th were approved, pending the correction of two errors which were not incorporated into the minutes presented at the commission meeting. [A corrected version will be distributed electronically for approval.]

Graduate Student Appeals: Dr. Karen DePauw asked the Graduate Student Appeals and Graduate Student Relations* committee to jointly investigate procedures for the evaluation of applications from staff and AP faculty who wish to work toward a graduate degree. A policy has been approved, but procedures still need to be developed and implemented. Dr. Elvinger, Dr. Short, Mr. Marsouk, Professor Galloway, and Mr. Bassler will represent both committees on this task force. Dr. DePauw will meet with this committee to formally charge them with the task.

Graduate Student Relations: [see above*] No Report.

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

University Council: Dr. Scott Case reported that the *Geospatial and Environmental Analysis* degree program was approved after a second reading. The *School of Construction* and the *English in Rhetoric and Writing* proposals were presented for a first reading.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Mr. Chris Bassler reported on the last meeting of the semester. At the meeting the assembly completed arrangements for the program chair of the Graduate Life Center and introduced a discussion of “green fees”.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Eileen Hitchingham reviewed the minutes of the November 3 meeting, including the Spring 2005 LibQUAL survey. Dr. Hitchingham also provided data on how Virginia Tech compared with a selection of 114 research universities in North America. The commission offered to write a letter of support on behalf of the library reminding the administration that the library plays a critical role in the success of the university.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The following programs were presented to the commission for discussion [copies distributed electronically to commission prior to the meeting; first three are double degrees, the last is collaborative]:

Dual Degree: Politecnico Di Milano and VT

Double PhD: Tsinghua University

Dual MS: Technische Universität Darmstadt and VT

Collaborative Ph.D. Program, Univerista della Svizzera Italiana and VT

Dr. Case asked that questions and / or comments be directed to him.

Announcements:

Dr. Rude asked if anyone on the commission was familiar with a “GRE validity study”.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 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