

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

March 1, 2006

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Room 206, Sandy Hall

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Karen DePauw, Ms. Pat Donovan, Dr. François Elvinger, Professor Bill Galloway, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Ms. Nicole James, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Don Orth, Dr. Carolyn Rude

Absent with Notification: Dr. Scott Case, Mr. Osama Marsouk, Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Jerry Niles, Dr. Susan Short, Brian Whitaker

Absent without Notification: Mr. Sumeet Bagai, Dr. John Moore

Conference call in: Dr. Barbara Allen

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from February 15, 2006: Approved

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from February 9, 2006 were approved. The online agriculture degree will be appear as a March 15 agenda item under “old business” for a second reading.

AP faculty / staff admissions: No report.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Professor Galloway reported on the committee’s recent meeting activities. Dr. Anne McNabb had supplied the committee with the demographics of faculty / staff who are candidates for graduate degrees at Virginia Tech. DRSCAP is developing a supplemental form to attach to the current application which will address conflict of interest issues. Several examples were given of potential conflicts. The committee will eventually have a formal recommendation for the commission.

University Council: The English PhD in Rhetoric and Writing was approved, the “WG” resolution passed [effective spring 2006], the EDP spin-off degrees passed.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): The fee issue was discussed at the delegate meeting. Nominations and elections are held in March. Mr. Kalista invited commission members to encourage students to apply for leadership positions. Partial tuition remissions are available.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Mr. Brian Whitaker forwarded the following updated report to the commission: *One case from the fall 2005 semester has been closed. The two remaining cases from fall 2005 are currently under investigation. No reported cases for spring 2006 at this point.*

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

Old Business: Following discussion, the commission agreed to send the following letter of support to the university library committee:

To Douglas Berry, III Chairperson University Library Committee

The Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies has received your letter concerning the University Libraries and the need to plan for sustained and incrementing funding support from the University for the Libraries.

We believe that appropriate funding for the Libraries is important if we are to accomplish those goals of the revised strategic plan that are related to expanding our graduate and research programs. The commission further believes excellent library collections and services are an essential component of the strategic plan.

Dr. Scott Case, Chair, will send the letter on behalf of the commission.

New Business:

Professional MBA: Dr. Karen DePauw presented the Professional MBA program to the commission for their review. This program replaces the "TV MBA". The program will be an agenda item at the next commission meeting.

CGS&P and GCC chairs will need to be appointed / nominated for the upcoming (2006 – 2007) year.

Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Discussion: The Council of Graduate Schools is very involved in promoting and encouraging graduate schools to have workshops and/or training / websites on the responsible conduct of research and we [VT Graduate School] hope to get something on our web site. Some departments and colleges are already familiar with areas of this issue, i.e., human participation in research, animal rights, avoiding plagiarism, and so on. Still, there are ongoing concerns and reasons for emphasis for RCR. Dr. DePauw will bring a presentation from ODU to an upcoming meeting and open a discussion on how we can implement a program on RCR at VT. This discussion can be broadened to include how we talk about ethics in teaching, and advising, etc. It would be helpful to develop an [campus-wide] inventory of what is being done at the departmental level.

Graduate Honor Society: Dr. DePauw also asked the commission to also consider, as part of the dialogue on ethics, a conversation on plagiarism, i.e., authorship and the student thesis, and consequences of plagiarism.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:47

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

Dr. Karen P. DePauw, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School