

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

March 19, 2008

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Ms. Linsey Barker, Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. James Freeman, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Penny McCallum, Ms. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Dr. Glenda Scales, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Chris Thomas

Absent with Notification: Dr. Jim Collier, Dr. Ron Daniel, Mr. John Kane, Dr. Rosary Lalik, Ms. Evelyn Richardson, Dr. Gerhardt Schurig

Absent without Notification: Ms. Margo Eggeling

Visitors and Invited Guests: Mr. Marvin Foushee, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Dr. Saifur Rahman

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved. Dr. DePauw asked that the discussion of the MISA degree be moved up on the agenda so that Dr. Saifur Rahman would not have to stay for the entire meeting.

Approval of minutes from February 20, 2008: Approved

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from February 26th were reviewed and approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: Ms. McMillan will send the survey to the graduate dean for review [see Graduate Student Relations report referenced in 2.20.08 commission minutes].

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

Second Reading of the Master of Information Security Assurance proposal

Dr. Saifur Rahman answered questions from the commission about the proposal. Dr. Rahman addressed the issues of market demand; budget allotment(s) for, and potential new materials needed from, the library; clarification of the degree title; enrollment; resourcing; accountability to students; the possibility of students needing financial aid; and similarities/differences with other programs. The commission voted to approve the proposal. Dr. Rahman will incorporate suggestions / concerns into the proposal to make it “tighter”. A resolution will be on the agenda of the next University Council meeting.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): The GSA held elections, and Mr. Joe McFadden was once again elected president. The resolution on fees was discussed and passed at the recent meeting. Ms. Linsey Barker presented an update on student participation for the upcoming *Relay for Life*.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

University Council: No report.

Old Business:

Admissions Categories

Ms. Margaret Merrill reviewed the revised Admissions Categories document developed by the DRSCAP committee and suggested that some concerns raised by commission members could be addressed as “procedures”. Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham described the three scenarios in which students would receive a letter from the graduate school concerning their enrollment status. Dr. DePauw said that language could be added to the admissions categories segment which would direct readers to enrollment information in the Graduate Catalog. Dr. DePauw clarified that students who are admitted and enrolled as part-time students are in a separate category than full-time students. Dr. DePauw said that the DRSCAP committee could be tasked with reviewing the enrollment language, as well as admissions language. Ms. Merrill noted that the online catalog has the ability to directly link sections, so policy items could be linked to procedure items.

The DRSCAP committee will discuss and make recommendations for updating the enrollment section which will be presented at a future meeting.

4000 Level Courses

Dr. Miller reviewed the recommendations of the DRSCAP committee and the commission voted to approve the below items.

- (1) Eliminate the “approved for graduate level” status on all 4000 level courses
- (2) Allow up to 6 credits of upper division (4000 and 3000) undergraduate credit to count toward meeting graduate program requirements
- (3) Convert those 4000 courses that are currently “approved for graduate credit” and are important in a department’s graduate offerings to 4000/5000 level conjoint courses.

New Business:

The commission will decide what to do about the meeting scheduled for April 16th at the April 2nd meeting.

Student Life Policies

- Dr. DePauw presented some issues related to the current student life policies at Virginia Tech and asked for discussion and feedback from the commission.
- Dr. DePauw invited comments on the Institutional Plan for Graduate Degrees.

BS/MS first Reading: Tabled

SACS update: Dr. DePauw reminded the commission to inform their departments about the “Student Learning Outcomes”. Website posting deadlines are May 15, June 15, and finally, July 15. Two items that will be part of the SACS review:

- (1) The qualifications of faculty teaching graduate courses* and
- (2) Allowable transfer credit from one institution to another [only transfer graded graduate credit from an accredited institution].

*The new online catalog will list only faculty who are qualified to teach graduate courses.

The Graduate School Monthly Memo has a new, interactive “blog” format online. (Currently: <https://secure.grads.vt.edu/weblog/monthlymemo>) Dr. DePauw invited feedback.

Announcements:

Next week is Graduate Education Week.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.