

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

March 21, 2007

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown

Present: Mr. Sherif Agha, Ms. Linsey Barker, Dr. François Elvinger, Professor Bill Galloway, Dr. Tim Mack, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Penny McCallum, Ms. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Ms. Mary Ann Norman, Ms. Rebecca Slutzky, Ms. Chris Thomas, Mr. Brian Whitaker, Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp

Absent with Notification: Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Gerhardt Schurig

Absent without Notification: Dr. Jim Collier

Conference call: Dr. Rosary Lalik

Invited Guests: Mr. Marvin Foushee, Dr. Bill Snizek, Dr. Barbara Lockee, Dr. Kerry Redican
Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham

Dr. François Elvinger called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from February 21, 2007: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Professor Galloway reviewed the minutes from February 22nd. The commission voted to approve the minutes.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

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

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Mr. Brian Whitaker reported that the GHS has a new investigator, Ms. Krysten Demarco, a student from Geosciences. There are now a total of three investigators, but one is graduating in May 2007. Another investigator will graduate in December 2007. Currently, two cases from last semester are going before a judicial panel. Two new cases have been reported this semester.

Two breakfasts have been planned during Graduate Education Week for general discussion of academic integrity, ethical decisions, and a little about the honor system. Also, some GHS panelist training will be included during this event.

A mock judicial panel is scheduled for Monday, March 26th, at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Elvinger reported that the ethics subcommittee had one more meeting scheduled before the end of the semester.

University Library Committee (ULC): The commission tabled discussion of the minutes from January 18th and February 15st until Dr. Hitchingham was present.

University Council: Dr. Elvinger reported that University Council approved the Virginia Tech – Georgetown University Master of Science Degree in Biomedical Technology Development and Management.

There are two more University Council meetings scheduled for spring 2007, so degree proposals presented at today’s meeting should have time to meet established approval timelines.

Old Business

Following a second reading, the commission approved two proposals: (1) *Simultaneous Master of Public and International Affairs and Master of Urban and Regional Planning* and (2) *Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought*.

New Business

Memorandum of Understanding On Academic Partnership between the Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Dr. Murrman described the MOU to the commission. The school in Switzerland has a well-known MBA program, but no PhD program. A partnership with Virginia Tech’s PhD program [HTM] has been under discussion for several years. In addition to providing access to a PhD program, it is hoped that a “faculty exchange” program can be instituted.

Collaborative Program between the School of Education and VCOM

Dr. Kerry Redican described the collaborative program which would link VCOM’s Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree (D.O.) with Virginia Tech’s M.S. or Ph.D. degree in Health Promotion/Instruction Design and Technology [School of Education]. The Osteopathic training model focuses more on community-based issues and a holistic approach. Currently there are 18 VCOM students enrolled in the health promotions Ph.D. program. Ultimately, these students will graduate with a D.O. degree from VCOM and a Ph.D. in Education from Virginia Tech.

Dr. Redican requested assistance from the commission in identifying the correct descriptors should this program be officially marketed. Ideas included “agreement”, “partnership”, “joint”, “collaborative program”, and “Professional Science Degree (PSM)”.

The commission voted to endorse the program and recommended it be marketed as a “collaborative program”.

Transfer credit from CMR

Dr. Barbara Lockee, Instructional Design and Technology (IDT), presented a proposal to the commission to accept transfer credit from the Certified Medical Representatives (CMR) institute into IDT and Health Promotions master’s degree program. CMR is located in Roanoke, but serves

an international clientele. Created in 1966, it serves the pharmaceutical industry and is a non-profit educational institution. It provides a national certification program for health care professionals. CMR is distance delivered and recently has utilized “e-learning”. Twenty-nine of the forty courses offered have graduate level recommendations and CMR already has some university alliances. Offering CMR courses for transfer credit could increase enrollment in the health promotions master’s degree program, and potentially the Ph.D. program. Dr. Lockee felt that about ten of CMR’s courses could be used in Virginia Tech’s programs. Both the School of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences have reviewed and approved this proposal.

Following review and discussion, the commission will vote on the proposal at the April 4th meeting.

Announcements: Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan will chair the April 18th meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

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