

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

May 2nd, 2007

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Ms. Linsey Barker, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Professor Bill Galloway, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Tim Mack, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Ms. Mary Ann Norman, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp, Ms. Rebecca Slutzky, Ms. Chris Thomas

Absent with Notification: Dr. Rosary Lalik, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Gerhardt Schurig

Absent without Notification: Mr. Agha Sherif, Dr. Jim Collier, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Ms. Penny McCallum, Mr. Brian Whitaker,

Invited Guests: Mr. Marvin Foushee, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from April 4, 2007: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): Professor Galloway reviewed the GCC minutes from April 12 and April 26. He noted that the committee considered 182 course proposals this year. Two new PhD and master's programs were approved; two changes to exiting programs were approved, and two certificates were approved. The commission approved 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)

Dr. DePauw congratulated the GSA for being recognized as the outstanding student organization for last year.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): Dr. DePauw announced that there may be another case which will [again] involve a distant campus. Next year, Dr. DePauw would like the commission to review and develop the logistics associated with students enrolled at a distant campus. She reminded the commission that the position of "Chief Justice" of the honor system is not filled and asked them to encourage qualified graduate students to apply for the position.

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Hitchingham announced that their chairperson has taken another position and a replacement will not be appointed this year. Gail McMillan gave a presentation at the last ULC meeting on the digital library archives. There are currently two

positions open in the library, (1) Science Librarian and (2) Librarian for foreign languages, music and performing arts. Several representatives of the Library of Congress will be advising the library on how to establish an archive which will include “April 16th and after”. Items associated with April 16th and the aftermath should be sent to the library for archiving.

University Council: Dr. Elvinger reported that at Monday’s meeting the Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought was passed. It will be presented to the Board of Visitors, and then to SCHEV, for approval.

Old Business: None

New Business

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences multidisciplinary degree

The commission reviewed the justification for the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education added to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Graduate Degrees (M.S. and PhD). Following discussion, the commission concurred with the proposal option.

Graduate Courses Recommended to be Deleted by CGS&P

Dr. Mihalik presented courses recommended for deletion to the commission. The commission voted to delete the courses.

Announcements:

Dr. DePauw announced that Dr. Tim Mack has accepted a position as the Dean of Graduate Studies at Georgia Southern University.

The Conference of Graduate schools has published a report entitled, *Graduate Education: The Backbone of American Competitiveness and Innovation* (2007), <http://www.cgsnet.org/>. Dr. DePauw would like the commission to look at ways we address five of the areas addressed in this report, including what we are already doing, as well as what we could be doing. She noted that our “Transformative Graduate Education” and “Citizen Scholar” programs are highlighted in the report. Dr. DePauw will try to get additional copies of this publication.

April 16, 20 07:

Dr. DePauw and the commission discussed the below items as they relate to April 16th and the aftermath.

- A debriefing of April 16 and aftermath will take place
- Important that our records have good contact information. In particular, important for international students to have current contact information, with the actual hometown (not “Blacksburg”)
- Delayed exams, coursework options
- Communication
- Contingency planning
- Most of conversations have been directed at undergraduate; graduate areas of concern will need to be addressed, as well. Dr. DePauw asked that concerns be sent to her via e-mail.
- Ongoing funding
- Identify places designated as “safe”
- Maintain records electronically

- Teaching assistants had classes with “empty chairs”. Dr. DePauw noted that GTA workshops were held prior to resumption of classes [several departments and the Graduate School organized separate events]. Many actions taken during this time may become “best practices”.

Ms. Ennis McCrery, the 2006 – 2007 graduate student representative to the Board of Visitors was appointed as “ombudsperson” to advocate for graduate students with new and / or ongoing issues. Her office will be located in the Graduate Life Center, but not in the Graduate School office area.

Dr. DePauw reminded commission members that May 11th was graduate commencement, and encouraged the commission to attend. She described the efforts being made to honor the deceased students, as well as support members of the families who will be attending the ceremony. Nine posthumous graduate degrees will be awarded at the ceremony.

Dr. DePauw thanked François Elvinger, Professor Bill Galloway, and the commission members for their work on the 2006-2007 Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies. The commission thanked Dr. DePauw and Ms. Feuerbach for their support during the year, as well.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 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