

## **Minutes**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

**September 20, 2006**

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown**

Present: Mr. Sherif Agha, Ms. Linsey Barker, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. François Elvinger, Professor Bill Galloway, Dr. Tim Mack, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Penny McCallum, Ms. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Mr. Brian Whitaker, Dr. Audrey Zinc-Sharp

Absent with Notification: Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Carolyn Rude

Absent without Notification: Mr. Maryann Norman, Dr. Jim Collier, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Gerhardt Schurig,

Invited Guests: Ms. Nancy Feuerbach, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Ms. Frances Keene, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham

**Approval of the agenda:** Approved.

**Approval of minutes from April 19, 2006:** Approved.

Dr. François Elvinger, Chair, opened the first meeting of the 2006-2007 academic year with a welcome, and a review of the commission's charge.

Dr. Karen DePauw outlined agenda and priority items for the commission to consider for the upcoming year, including the following:

- Quality advising and mentoring (eAdvising and eMentoring)
- Ethics and professional conduct related to discovery, learning and engagement
- Inclusion of Principles of Community throughout graduate education and recommendations from the Diversity Think Tank
- Review and approval of new and extended graduate degrees identified through the IPGD
- Review of results from exit and entry surveys
- Discussion of the role of research at VT, coursework only degrees, master's & doctoral degrees
- Policy and procedures review including [Note: below items for DRSCAP committee]
  - Admissions requirements: 3 year degrees from international institutions; provisional admission status
  - Summer enrollment and status of graduate students
  - Residency requirements for doctoral degrees (research hours rather than courses?)
  - Plans of Study changes (format, faculty committees)
  - Quality assessment for graduate courses delivered on-line
  - Part-time graduate students & policies/procedures
  - Commonwealth campus status and credit limits per semester; non degree category
  - Co-op policies for international students

- Others (faculty status, student fees)

Dr. DePauw reviewed the upcoming Graduate School events for the grand opening of the Graduate Life Center at Virginia Tech, including the lecture by Daniel Pink, and the open house.

Dr. DePauw announced the appointment of Dr. James Turner as an associate vice provost of the Graduate School. Dr. Turner will be chairing the “Diversity Think Tank”.

Commission members will be given access to survey results as available.

### **Committee Reports**

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from April 13 were approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Membership on the student appeals and student relations committee will be deferred until actual cases / events occur.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Membership on the committee will include Dr. Tim Mack, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Gail McMillan. Meetings generally occur immediately following commission meetings. The committee must include at least four faculty members and one graduate student. Dr. DePauw will invite Drs. Ollendick and Rude.

Dr. François Elvinger noted that the commission still needs to select a vice-chair. Interested commission member[s] will review their calendars.

### **Other Reports**

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report.

University Council: Dr. Elvinger reminded the commission that the council tabled the resolution changes to university policies for student life. The resolutions will be presented to the council at the next meeting.

Ms. Frances Keene reviewed the three resolutions which were brought forward [to University Council] from the Commission on Student Affairs in the 2005-2006 academic year. At the last meeting, the council decided to take some time to receive feedback from faculty members, and then bring it back to University Council. Feedback from Faculty Senate and the recent University Council meeting has been incorporated into the document for the commission’s review and discussion. Members of the commission expressed concern about the unilateral development and application of policies for two distinct student populations, i.e., undergraduate and graduate students. Ms. Keene explained policies that apply to undergraduate students automatically apply to graduate students, “irrespective” of the policies being discussed. Policies apply to distance

students as well as Blacksburg campus students. Ms. Keene asked commission members to e-mails concerns to her. The commission decided to table the issue.

Dr. Elvinger will bring commission concerns to the University Council. He also was directed by commission members to vote against all three CSA resolutions if presented at the next University Council meeting.

**Old Business:**

A committee on ethics was formed. Members will include Greg Lemmond, Brian Whitaker, Greg Sagstetter, Margaret Merrill, François Elvinger, and Sue Murrmann.

**New Business:** [The presentation by Ms. Keene occurred earlier in the meeting.]

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:40

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of*

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