

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
April 3, 2002
206 Sandy Hall

Present: Ms. Kim Aylward, Mr. Edward Boone, Dr. Greg Brown, Mr. Ron Daniel, Mr. Ryan Devlin for Ms. Theresa Kanter, Dr. David de Wolf, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Rakesh Kapania, Mr. Jay Khare, Dr. Joseph Merola, Dr. Kent Murrmann, Dr. Joseph Scarpaci, Ms. Mary Schaeffer, Ms. Tracey Slotta, Mr. Jan van Aardt,

Absent with Notification: Dr. Ruth Alscher, Dr. Stephen Boyle, Dr. Klaus Elgert, Dr. Peter Graham, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. John Ney, Ms. Miya Simpson, Dr. Roger Avery, Ms. Angela Webb

Absent without Notice: Dr. David M. Moore

Conference Call In: Ms. Patti Foutz

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

Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, substitute Chair, called the meeting to order.

Announcements:

Dr. Joseph Merola announced that Virginia Tech was in the middle of Graduate Student Appreciation Week. April 2nd was the poster session, and the posters were of outstanding quality and represented very good research. The evening of the 2nd featured the speaker, Ms. Harriet Fulbright, widow of the late Senator Fulbright. This presentation will be available on streaming video. Coincidentally, a group of area Fulbright alumni were meeting to open a new alumni chapter and they were able to meet Ms. Fulbright. Upcoming events include the awards assembly, and colleges and departments are planning special events.

Dr. Merola announced that, following the Provost's Town Meetings on restructuring, Dr. McNamee put together a faculty committee to study restructuring of the University. The committee met last week and will continue to meet. Dr. Merola is participating in these discussions at the request of the Provost.

Dr. Hitchingham discussed the LibQUAL study that the library has done which surveys undergraduate and graduate students and faculty in regard to library services. A handout was distributed to commission members representing a sample of constituents in Spring 2001. The handout Dr. Hitchingham shared addressed one of the component sections that addressed collections and access to collections. Participants are asked to give their minimum level of service, desired level of service, and perceived level of service. The graph on the handout showed the gap between perceived level of service, and desired level of service. The largest gap at Virginia Tech is in relation to complete runs of journals. Dr. Hitchingham encouraged faculty and students to participate in an upcoming survey.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from March 20, 2002: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee: reported electronically prior to meeting. Approved. Dr. Merola noted that the State Council of Higher Education has changed some of the procedures for course and program approval.

Graduate Student Appeals: no report.

Graduate Student Relations: no report, per e-mail.

DRSCAP: report submitted electronically. Discussion will be tabled until the next meeting

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): submitted electronically. Mr. Edward Boone questioned the appointment of only one graduate student to serve on the health insurance study committee Mr. van Aardt stated that GSA is in communication with the Office of Risk Management about this issue.

Dr. Merola welcomed Mr. van Aardt as the new president of the Graduate Student Assembly.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): submitted electronically.

University Library Committee: no report. Minutes from the last committee meeting were already submitted.

Old Business: The commission discussed the March 22nd e-mail from Dr. de Wolf which reviewed Sturgis's Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure. In particular, Dr. de Wolf had questioned CGS&P's order of business which has historically begun with announcements, following by approval of the agenda. Dr. de Wolf pointed out that since announcements are part of the agenda, it seemed illogical for announcements to precede the agenda. The commission voted to begin each agenda with the item approval of the agenda followed by announcements.

New Business: Dr. Merola reviewed the request from Dr. Larry Byers, of the Northern Virginia Center, to award a posthumous degree to Mr. Adrinell Dye. Mr. Dye was pursuing a special certificate in education. Dr. Merola recommended, and the commission concurred, that the degree be awarded, since most of Mr. Dye's coursework had been completed prior to his death.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Joseph S. Merola, Acting Dean of the Graduate School