

## **Minutes**

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

**November 20, 2002**

**3:30 — 4:30**

**206 Sandy Hall**

Present: Dr. Stephen Boyle, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. David de Wolf, Dr. Klaus Elgert, Dr. Ruth Grene, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Rakesh Kapania, Ms. Megan Madden, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Kent Murrmann, Ms. Mary Schaeffer, Dr. Mehdi Setareh, Ms. Miya Simpson, Dr. Andy Swiger

Absent with Notification: Mr. Nick Amico, Ms. Patricia Foutz, Mr. Brian Johnson, Dr. Mike Moore, Dr. John Ney, Ms. Angie Webb, Dr. Brenda Winkel

Absent without Notice: Mr. Rishi Pande, Mr. Anthony Scardina, Mr. Murali Krishnan Gunasekaran

Invited Guests: Dr. Roger Avery, Mr. Marvin Foushee, Ms. Nancy Feuerbach

Dr. Ruth Grene called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from November 06, 2002: Approved with one correction. Under Old Business, Dr. Kapania asked that the statement Dr. Kapania stated that it was his understanding that Dahlgren did invite Virginia Tech faculty to give seminars. It changed to Dr. Kapania stated that Dahlgren did invite faculty from Virginia Tech and other universities to give seminars.

## **Committee Reports**

Graduate Curriculum Committee: Submitted electronically, and approved as submitted with one correction. Dr. Chip Frazier did not attend the meeting. Dr. Kapania said that in the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the question was asked "What happens to courses when they die?" Mr. Foushee said that courses are reviewed periodically. According to Presidential Memorandum No. 11, courses that have not been taught in three years can be deleted from course offerings.

Graduate Student Appeals: Dr. Grene, in her capacity as chair of this committee, reported that the committee had met. The committee decided to support the decision of the instructor of the course. Dr. DePauw will send the student a letter after she receives a report from the committee.

Graduate Student Relations: Submitted electronically. This committee and selected students are serving on a Rights and Responsibilities committee. Dr. DePauw has charged this group with developing a graduate student rights and responsibilities document. Dr. DePauw has not given the committee a deadline. The bulk of the work will be done in the spring semester, and hopefully a document will be prepared by the fall 2003 semester.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): Dr. Murrmann, chair of this committee, reported that the committee had met and was recommending:

- (1) The Graduate School should no longer be required to approve independent study courses. This has been a practice, but not a policy. Independent study can be approved at the college level. Dr. Avery noted that the Graduate School would still approve special study courses. The commission approved this change in practice.
- (2) Provisional students with GPAs of 2.75 to 2.99 should be admitted for one semester and be eligible to receive financial aid. Language in the catalog should be changed to read:

- *REGULAR STUDENT: For an applicant who meets the required grade point average GPA on the last 60 semester hours (or equivalent) and whose academic background meets established requirements and is relevant and current. The Graduate School requires a GPA of 3.0 or higher for this status. International students residing outside the U.S. are only considered for regular admission.*
- *PROVISIONAL STUDENT (Master's Only): For an applicant whose GPA is between 2.75 and 2.99 and/or whose academic background is deficient or not current. Upon completion of 9 credit hours of course work, the student's graduate committee may recommend that the student be admitted to regular status. Provisional student status is allowed for no more than the equivalent of one semester (12 credit hours of course work is equivalent to one semester) during which time the provisional student must earn a GPA of at least 3.0).*

Dr. de Wolf recommended the GPA range for provisional students be 2.75 to 3.0. The commission voted to accept the DRSCAP recommendations.

## **Other Reports**

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee: Submitted electronically. Dr. Hitchingham stated that the electronic report was a reflection of her verbal report at the November 6 meeting. The commission approved the report.

Old Business:

Recommendations on graduate tuition: Dr. Grene reviewed the recommendations presented at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. DePauw stated she has submitted a proposal to the Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP) committee to redo the salary matrix, as well as other proposals, which will allow more flexibility. She said that the recommendations presented at the last CGS&P meeting are captured in some of the proposals she is working on. The commission voted to endorse the recommendations contained in the overview of the study commissioned by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Commission on Faculty Affairs and presented at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The recommendations will be incorporated into the discussions of the DRSCAP committee.

New Business: None.

Announcements: None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 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*