

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

March 19, 2003

3:30 PM — 4:30PM

206 Sandy Hall

Present: Mr. Nick Amico, Dr. Stephen Boyle, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. David de Wolf, Dr. Klaus Elgert, Dr. Ruth Grene, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Ms. Megan Madden, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Kent Murrmann, Ms. Mary Schaeffer, Dr. Mehdi Setareh

Absent with Notification: Dr. Ron Daniel, Mr. Brian Johnson, Dr. Rakesh Kapania, Mr. Anthony Scardina, Ms. Miya Simpson, Ms. Angie Webb, Dr. Brenda Winkel

Absent without Notice: Mr. Murali Krishnan Gunasekaran, Dr. David M. Moore, Dr. John Ney

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

Conference Call In: Ms. Laura Fornash

Dr. Ruth Grene called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Announcements: Dr. David Vaughan reported on CUSP Resolution 2002-03C: Resolution to Accommodate Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance in the University Calendar Criteria. Last year University Council voted to observe Martin Luther King Day as a holiday beginning 2005-06. The Academic Support Committee has developed a plan to incorporate this holiday into the university calendar.

Approval of minutes from February 19, 2003: Approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee: Approved from the February 27 minutes were CS 5634; CS 5045-5046 and CS 5124 were approved with minor corrections. Dr. Sumichrast will be invited to the next CGS&P meeting to discuss the Executive MBA program. The commission will study the handout materials related to this program. Minutes from March 13 were approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: Dr. de Wolf reported that a current appeal is ending; a new appeal has been assigned to the committee.

Graduate Student Relations: Ms. Margaret Merrill reported that the Rights and Responsibilities committee will be scheduling a meeting.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP):

The committee recommended changes to the Graduate Catalog (pp 26-27) as follows:

- The proposed changes to Requirements for Doctoral Degrees
Changing the 60 hour maximum limit on research and dissertation, 5994 and 7994, credit hours, to no maximum limit.

No change in the required minimum number of graded course credits of 27 hours, but allow individual departments to petition for a lower minimum as follows: Departments may petition

the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies for permission to reduce the minimum number of graded course credits required for a specific degree program. The petition must provide clear justification and rationale for the requested reduction in requirements.

The purpose of these changes is to allow individual departments greater flexibility in determining minimum graded credit hour requirements and maximum research hours allowed so that (1) individual student plans of study can be tailored to the individual students background and academic needs, and (2) program requirements can be adjusted to be competitive with peer institutions.

The committee recommended increasing the amount of transfer credit (on page 23 of the Graduate Catalog) allowed from 20% to 50% of the graded credit hours beyond the baccalaureate for the Masters and/or the Doctorate. The purpose of this proposed change is to allow greater flexibility in satisfying minimum graded credit hour requirements and more opportunity to engage in research in doctoral studies.

The committee reported that they had discussed the policy (on page 27 of the Graduate Catalog) for granting exceptions to the 20-hour external limitation for satisfying doctoral student residency requirements while studying at alternative residency locations. The committee recommended no change in the current policy on the grounds it is needed to assure the maintenance of required residency conditions for doctoral students at alternative residency locations.

The DRSCAP minutes and recommendations from the February 5 and February 19 meetings were approved.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): Ms. Megan Madden reported that the GSA passed two resolutions, (1) supporting diversity on campus and (2) supporting the appointment of Dr. Shelli Fowler. Dr. Avery stated that both resolutions were reported at the most recent Board of Visitors meeting. Another resolution is being drafted in support of diversity as well as meetings on campus. Ms. Madden reported that the GSA executive board for 2003-04 has been selected. The Board of Visitors representative for next year is Ms. Myrna Callison. The commission approved the report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report.

University Library Committee: Dr. Eileen Hitchingham discussed having a mechanism for exposing graduate students to information management skills. Dr. Hitchingham suggested that the commission invite Nan Seamans, Director of Library Instruction, to an upcoming meeting. Ms. Seamans has been working with the undergraduate curriculum. Ms. Seamans could discuss options available to the graduate student population. The committee agreed to invite Ms. Seamans to an upcoming meeting. Ms. Feuerbach will extend the invitation. The commission approved the report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The commission recommended that a representative from the Northern Virginia Center (NVC) be appointed. Ms. Fornash, the extended campus representative, noted that a representative from NVC would bring different strengths to the table. Ms. Feuerbach will investigate the procedure for new appointments to the commission.

Dr. de Wolf reported that the ECE department had some concerns with the new FTE change from nine to twelve hours. Twelve hours in the ECE curriculum may be too strenuous for non-thesis students. Dr. Avery reported that the dean was aware of this concern and discussions are underway to address this issue.

Dr. Grene reminded the commission that a vice-chair must be appointed for the upcoming year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 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