

Minutes
Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies
October 20, 2004
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
206 Sandy Hall

Present: Mr. Chris Bassler, Dr. Scott Case, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Kevin Davy, Dr. Karen DePauw, Dr. Klaus Elgert, Professor Bill Galloway, Ms. Lauren Good, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Jerry Niles, Dr. Tom Ollendick, Dr. Donald Orth, Ms. Yvette Quintela, Dr. Carolyn Rude, Dr. Fred Richardson for Dr. Sue Murrmann, Dr. Nan Seamans, Mr. Terrell Strayhorn, Ms. Chris Thomas

Absent with Notification: Dr. François Elvinger, Mr. Steven Hall, Professor Ron Kagawa, Dr. Rakesh Kapania, Mr. Greg Lemmond, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Susan Short

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

Approval of the agenda: Approved.

Approval of minutes from October 6, 2004: Approved, with one correction. Dr. Creamer is not a member of the 2004 – 2005 commission

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from October 14, 2004 were approved.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report.

Graduate Student Relations: No report.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP): The committee will hold its first meeting immediately following the October 20th commission meeting.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA): No report.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): No report

University Library Committee (ULC): Dr. Hitchingham distributed and discussed a handout, which described the library committee's reporting structure and mission as it relates to university governance. She will review committee minutes of the October 19th meeting at the next commission meeting.

Information skills for graduate students: Dr. Nan Seamans

Dr. Seamans reviewed this "carry-over" item from last year, which addressed library resources for graduate students. Dr. Seamans asked the commission to review the draft of the resolution, "Information Skills for Graduate Students", presented to the commission in the spring of 2004. The document will be edited/revised as needed, and finalized at a future meeting.

Old Business:

VT-MENA Graduate Program: The VT-MENA document [distributed electronically] was discussed. Questions were raised concerning library resources and the timescale and criteria for program assessment. Dr. DePauw suggested that specific questions be forwarded to Dr. Riad, e.g., (1) what library resources are available in Egypt, and what would the program would need electronically; (2) would it be possible to provide an update

[program assessment] after one year, including information on the criteria for evaluation; (3) how will adjunct faculty be evaluated; and (4) will Virginia Tech faculty participation be voluntary? Dr. Avery suggested we ask for more information on the “condensed semester format”, i.e., is it feasible to successfully take a semester’s worth of courses in an abbreviated period of time. Dr. DePauw recommended that VT-MENA offer only a master’s program before offering a doctorate program. Dr. Elgert will draft some questions for Dr. Riad and distribute the answers to commission members by the next meeting.

New Business:

Dr. Elgert reminded commission members that the Graduate Student Assembly was hosting the Oktoberfest at the University Club on Friday.

Issues and Concerns: Dr. DePauw and Dr. Elgert encouraged members of the commission, as representatives of their constituencies, to bring any issues and concerns to the commission. Items for the agenda should be forwarded to Dr. Elgert or Ms. Feuerbach.

Announcements:

Dr. DePauw announced that the university will cover seventy percent of the health insurance subsidy next year [Fall 05].

Dr. DePauw will share results of the graduate student survey.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Nancy B. Feuerbach, on behalf of

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