

Faculty Senate Minutes DRAFT
January 22nd, 2013
350 Lavery Hall

Attendees: M. Abbas, A.L. Abbott, T. Abel, D. Agud, G. Back, O. Balci, J. Bassett, V. Centeno, L. Cooper, R. Dalloul, A. Ellis, C. Eska, R. Goss, B. Hausman, C. Heatwole, S. Hein, K. Hosig, B. Jones, S. Karpanty, B. Klein, G. Luttrell, M. Marchant, S. Markham, S. Martin, M. Maycock, J. Merola, M. Moehler, K. Niewolny, C. Noirot, M. Patil, B. Pencek, A. Puckett, H. Quesada Pineda, W. Reed, K. Rojiani, D. Smith, C. Stovall, E. Vance, B. Vinatzer, B. Vogelaar, J. Wilkins, A. Zajac, B. Zhao

Absent with prior notice: S. Rinehart

The President of Faculty Senate, Karpanty, called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

I. *Introductions*

II. *Approval of Agenda and Minutes from December 2012*

Approved

III. *Question and Answer Session with Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education, Karen DePauw*

Possible topics for discussion

- Funding models/ideas for expanding your graduate program by ~1000 students as outlined in the VT long-range plan, see page 11 in <https://www.president.vt.edu/strategic-plan/2012-plan/2012-strategic-plan.pdf>
- A proposal for a new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program to be administered by the graduate school, please see attachment or http://www.governance.vt.edu/Resolutions-2012-13/CGSP_Supporting_Documents_Resolution_2012-13A.pdf

- Dean DePauw started off by saying that she really believes in Faculty input.
- The university's long range plan has a goal of graduate student growth of 1000 students in the next 6 years. Additional resources will be required and she has presented her plans to the Provost/President. The goal for the distribution of additional enrollment is roughly
 - By discipline: 75%/25% STEMH/Other
 - By degree 75%/25% PhD/MS
 - By location 75%/25% Blacksburg/Off-Blacksburg-Campus (VT-CRI included in Blacksburg)
- These are very different from current levels (41% PhDs for example, less than 25% outside). Significant fluctuations between colleges and locations, e.g., National Capital Region may be more MS but funded, some colleges more MS while other PhD. Nothing put on the table on domestic/international, good balance required.

- There was some concern on definition of STEMH. Dean DePauw talked about it with Provost/Deans - Deans can make a case that a particular area falls in STEMH. Though some may want to align with STEMH others may not want to or have to. Exact process is not decided, but would be by the end of this semester. There will be tremendous flexibility on how to define STEMH.
- The proposed 1000 grad student increase over the next six years requires ~ 100 more admitted per year for first two years and then 200/yr admitted more the next 4 years. We do get a sufficient number of applications. Currently ~ 12000 applicants/yr, 5000 admitted/yr, 2500 offered assistantships/yr and ~ 2000 accept each year and about 2000 graduate per year.
- Funding issues will be important and are not underestimated, especially since some colleges do not have significant external funding sources. Internal funding may be mix of GTA and GRA. GTA comes to colleges from Provost. Money will come from University, State, more external sources ... Exact sources and amount of funding is a work in progress. More faculty growth is expected as well leading to increase in external funding. Other resources including space, library, etc. will be needed.
- There was concern expressed by faculty that high overhead rates are affecting our ability to attract more grants, and that a given amount of \$ can support less students given that reality. It may be possible to obtain seed funding (GRAs) from a pot of money which includes overhead dollars. Maybe increased tuition revenues can be allocated back to GRA.
- It was difficult to understand how the grad school comes into the picture on growth since all recruitment is at the department. Especially since recruitment at departmental level is based on departmental financial resources.
- The discussion then shifted to Individualized InterDisciplinary PhD program. Dean DePauw said that this was ideal for research that is really cross-cutting, not a major/minor, where the essence of the research is at the interface. Typically more than 2 areas of research will be involved. This is an exciting degree with incredible flexibility.
- There will be two ways to get into program - existing students move into it from other departments or admitted directly. Currently graduate school does not do the applicant vetting. It is highly unlikely that somebody from the outside will be able to complete the application and form the committee to get into the program.
- There were some concerns about the prospects of the students. Dean DePauw mentioned that for many jobs at the PhD level (e.g. federal labs) the degree title is not as important as the research area. Though she did say that the students will have to talk about themselves effectively.
- No money will be diverted from existing graduate school programs to ID PhD program. The students will typically be funded by Faculty grants, ID fellowship. The credit for graduating the student goes to the faculty involved. In some cases full credit will be given to co-advisors.
- There was a concern that the program proposal came out of nowhere and that it should have been vetted through other Commissions as well. But, this discussion with faculty senate helped to allay existing concerns

- Faculty from program without PhD may co-advise students as necessary, but this program is not a work around to actually having a PhD program in a specific area. It may help some students in IGEP (without PhDs). A student in IGEP could get a PhD from a home department, a new degree (where planned), or ID program.

IV. *Open discussion of any items related to Commissions and Committees*

- Karpany gave an update on Precinct B Plan, New Classroom Building, Multi-Modal Transport Facility
 - Precinct B plan: will be at the corner of Prices-Fork/West Campus Drive entrance to the campus. Will have a new classroom building and MMTF. Some design ideas will be emailed to FS.
 - Stadium Woods: management plan is being developed.
 - Proposal to build on any green space will be now brought to attention of the building committee. They should let FS know.
- Agenda items for upcoming meetings
 - VP for Research
 - Provost
 - President

V. *New Business*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.