

CGPSP Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021
3:30 – 5:00 pm

Present: Madlyn Frisard, Barbara Hoopes, Coy Allen, Robert Sumachrist, Nathaniel Porter, Hannah Parks, Pengtao Yue, Paul Emmons, Emily Burns, Karen DePauw (ex officio), Kayla Alward, Lujean Baab, Sabrina Sturgeon, Maruf Hoque, Richard Vari, Sara Hooshangi, Nancy Bodenhorn, Hypatia Alexandria, Hannah Upton, Montasir Abbas, Rachel Holloway (ex officio),

Absent with Notification: Ashley Shew (on leave), Gabriela Carillo, Marcia Feuerstein,

Absent without Notification: Lesa Hanlin, Cliff Shaffer, Chad Bolding, Awad Abdelhalim

Visitors and Invited Guests: Janice Austin, Bill Huckle, April Myers, Kevin Edgar, Aubrey Knight

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm.

Members once again approved a motion to vote by objections and abstentions, assuming approval unless otherwise stated. This motion was made to accommodate the Zoom meeting format.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with a slight modification to swap items D and E, to allow for the discussion on Elections at the end of New Business.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from April 7, 2021 were approved as-is.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee - Bill Huckle

The GCC has approved the following Fall 2021 courses pending minor revisions:

LAR 5124, LAR 5084, ME 5784, EDCI 5014, EDCI 5024, EDCI 5034, EDCI 5044 EDCI 5054, WATR 5004

Discontinued:

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Major: Educational Research and

Evaluation (EDRE), Last term to enroll: Spring 2021, Last term to graduate: Fall 2026

(CM-6778)

GCC also discussed the revision to the Data Analytics and Applied Statistics (DAAS) under Master of Arts in Data Analytics and Applied Statistics (MADAS)

Graduate Student Appeals Committee - Karen DePauw

The current open appeal has been reviewed by the committee, and a recommendation has been sent.

The letter to the student is being finalized and will be resolved within the week.

There is one other open appeal, which will be sent to the committee soon.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP) Committee – Barbara Hoopes

Dean DePauw has asked DRSCAP to look into two new items - Retroactive Graduate Degrees and how the Student Code of Conduct (aka Hokie Handbook) applies to graduate students. Task groups discussed principles, guidelines, and practices, which will be reviewed at their next meeting on May 5.

As a note, Dean DePauw mentioned there is a current retroactive degree request.

Old Business

New Business

Resolution 2020-21F: Discontinuing the Doctor of Philosophy PhD in Education Research and Evaluation (EDRE)

1st Reading

SCHEV has identified the EDRE PhD as a program with low-enrollment, according to their formula, which looks at rolling averages over 5 years. The certificate will stay, as well as the courses, and remaining students will be offered a teach-out option.

Resolution 2020-21K: Establishment of the School of Animal Science

Informational

This item will not go for a vote in CGPSP, but is presented for informational purposes. CUSP will have their 2nd reading and vote, since this primarily involves undergraduate programs. The establishment of the School of Animal Science is a means of combining the often interconnected Dairy Science and Poultry Science programs. While the school establishment will put these two programs under the same umbrella, the courses themselves and adjunct faculty appointments will remain the same, with modified language. There is no anticipated conflict with Veterinary Sciences.

Resolution 2020-21G: VTSCOM Grade Mode Change - Aubrey Knight

1st Reading

The proposed VTSCOM grade mode change will shift the current system of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory to Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail.

Richard Vari, who has ties to VTSCOM, asked if he should abstain, and the clarification was made that any member may vote for motions that involve their own departments/programs. Abstention is only necessary if they feel there is a true conflict.

Graduate Student Fees

Dean DePauw has asked the commission to begin a longer discussion regarding graduate student fees. At present, the Comprehensive Fees are not able to be covered by departments directly (as they can with other fees), because of their designation. These fees can be a burden on students.

Maruf Hoque noted that the Cost of Living survey recently done by the GSA shows inconsistencies in the fee structure, and comparison to peer institutions has been difficult because these fees are not reported consistently across institutions. Others agreed that within Virginia Tech, tuition and fee components are not clearly communicated to students, and the fee structure is not well justified for graduate students who may see some components as more relevant to undergraduate students.

Kevin Edgar noted that the budget items were already presented to the Task Force last year, but the fee structure still seems complicated. Focus may have to shift to “how do we manage the fees, as they exist now?” Further discussion will be required, but no formal action was taken.

Commission Chair / Vice Chair / GCC Chair Elections

The current candidates for CGPSP 2021-2022 are as follows:

Chair: Marcia Feuerstein

Vice Chair: Pengtao Yue

GCC Chair: Coy Allen

Any other interested members can contact [Madlyn Frisard](#). A vote will be taken at the next meeting.

Graduate School Updates - Karen DePauw

- University-wide virtual commencement will take place on May 14th, with all Spring 2021 degrees conferred.
- There will be two in-person events for the Graduate School, on May 10th and 11th. These events are limited to two hours, and are open to 2020 graduate students as well. Each student is able to bring 4 guests, and departments were each given 50 tickets to allot as they see fit. The ceremony will include 90 second speeches from 6 students (3 per day), and graduates will be able to walk across the stage and hear their name. Northern Virginia will have a shuttle to the ceremonies, and is also planning an in-person event locally.
- For the Blacksburg ceremonies on the 10th and 11th, Janice Austin will need 8 volunteers to assist with seating in the stadium.
- Along with the ceremonies, photo-op sessions will be available to graduates in front of the GLC for students, their families, and faculty. Dean DePauw will also try to be present for as many of the sessions as possible. Photo-ops are offered in 10-minute blocks, for 3 hours each day and includes hooding opportunities.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly – Maruf Hoque

GSA conducted a Cost of Living Survey in February, and is working now to analyze results to complete their report. They received roughly 1,000 responses, with the bulk of responses from Blacksburg, ~50 from Roanoke, and ~100 from Northern Virginia. The survey covered healthcare, transportation, and other factors.

Maruf also noted that he is a part of the search committee for the new Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies. The interviews have concluded, and the committee is now reviewing comments to prepare their recommendation.

Graduate Student Honor System – Kayla Alward

There have been a total of 5 cases this semester, 3 of which are currently open.

University Library Committee – Nathaniel Porter

No update

Faculty Senate - Montasir Abbas

Representative absent

Student Government Association – Hannah Upsom

CGPSP welcomes our newest representative, Hannah Upson, who will serve through 2021-22. SGA is currently working on changes related to their new senate.

Board of Visitors – Sabrina Sturgeon

The BOV had previously been discussing procedures related to non-legal name changes, but this has been shelved due to anticipated Title 9 changes. The BOV is also preparing a catalog system to ease student leader transitions.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council - Madlyn Frisard

UC had their first reading of the proposed name change for the VTCSOM department of Interprofessionalism.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Lujean Baab

CAPFA continues its ongoing Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate elections.

Commission on Student Affairs

No updates

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Rachel Holloway

CUSP is reviewing a readmission under Leave of Absence policy, which already exists for the graduate school but has yet to be developed for undergraduates.

Announcements and Discussion

Kevin Edgar gave an update on Posthumous Degree policy development, which is still moving steadily and will be prepared to go before governance soon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Kehr

On behalf of Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D.

Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies