Resolution to Change the GPSS Constitution to Move Transition of Leadership to Spring

WHEREAS, the current Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) constitution states that the transition of leadership occurs at the end of fall semester; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the current constitution does not allow ample time for a change of leadership and transitioning of incoming board; and

WHEREAS, the initial reason for this shift was to enable stronger institutional memory; and

WHEREAS, shifting the date forward to early May allows us to keep the benefit of institutional memory and the academic year calendar for consistency with other senates; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) transition of leadership be moved forward to early May (as detailed by Appendix 1).
Appendix 1: Change to GPSS constitution

Current Version:

Article IV: Executive Board
Section 4: Election of Executive Board Members

B. Election of the Executive Board Members shall be conducted at the final General Meeting of each spring semester.

D. Executive Board Members are elected for a term starting at the end of the current fall semester and lasting until the end of the following fall semester.

Proposed Change:

Article IV: Executive Board
Section 4: Election of Executive Board Members

B. Election of the Executive Board Members shall be conducted within the first three General Meetings of each fall semester.

D. Executive Board Members are elected for a term starting in the first week of May and ending at the same time next year as they transition new executive members into the position.
November 23, 2021

Responses to CGPSP Resolutions

**CGPSP 2021-22C (or GPSS 2021-22A)**
Based on our review of the commission charge, the Faculty Senate Cabinet does not believe that the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies has the authority to advance this resolution. Additionally, the approach advocated by this resolution is problematic, as it would give a portion of task forces or working groups control over the whole.

**CGPSP 2021-22D (or GPSS 2021-22B)**
The Faculty Senate Cabinet supports a review of our current methods of funding graduate students and the consideration of different approaches to how we support them as students, teachers, and researchers, including the duration of their funding.

We do not, however, support this resolution, which would require a substantial funding commitment based solely on the information, opinions, and references contained within the resolution, and would apply the GPSS-recommended approach to task forces and working groups that we have characterized as problematic.

**CGPSP 2021-22E (or GPSS 2021-2022E)**
Waive rights to comment

**CGPSP 2021-22F (or GPSS 2021-22H)**
The Faculty Senate Cabinet believes that Virginia Tech should do everything within its means to provide parental leave and childcare services to all its employees. The pandemic has revealed again just how important these options and services are for the health and well-being of parents and children, as well as the substantial impact that insufficient parental leave and childcare have on equity and advancement, particularly for female employees.

We do not, however, support this resolution, which would require a substantial funding commitment based solely on the information, opinions, and references contained within the resolution; would make policy alterations prior to analyzing their cost; and would apply the GPSS-recommended approach to task forces and working groups that we have characterized as problematic.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert Weiss
Faculty Senate President

Professor of Natural Hazards
Center for Coastal Studies (Coastal@VT), Director
DRRMVT, Director
Department of Geosciences
November 11, 2021

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

From: A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate has reviewed and approves the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Polices (CGPSP) Resolution 2021-22E to Change the GPSS Constitution to Move Transition of Power to Spring.

We have no further comment.