CGPSA- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs  
December 13, 2023  
3:30-5:00  
GLC Conference Room 238 or Zoom  

https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85740318770  
Meeting ID: 857 4031 8770

Present: Adams, Ranald; Austin, Janice; De Jager, Caroline; Gazar, Amir; Hefny, Mohamed; Hoopes, Barbara; Ortiz, Gonzalo; Saint-Preux, Carlos; Shupe, Sally; Surface, Lauren; Surprenant, Aimée; Sydnor, Shaka; Towsif, Sami

Absent with Notice: Learman, Lee

Absent: Breighner, Atlas; Hearne, Lindy; Holloway, Kendall; Kinnaman, Alex; Mieses, Kassidy; Thomas, Eric; Walters, Tyler

Guests: Myers, April

Ranald called the meeting to order at 3:31.

1. Adoption of Agenda-Ranald Adams

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Adoption of Minutes from November 8, 2023-Ranald Adams

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes. The motion carried.

3. Member Reports

a. Graduate School Updates—Dean Surprenant

*There is now a Mentor Resource page on the website that is for graduate students and faculty.
*The dean would like to know when students apply for grants/fellowships.
*Graduate School application is holistic. Prospective students can use the space to demonstrate their accomplishments.
*Many fellowship applications are open.
*The dean sent GPDs an email to encourage faculty to give graduate students a proper break.

b. Senate Updates-

*GPSS-Ranald Adams

*Survey regarding the ombuds was sent to students.
*The climate and culture survey has been extended.
*Working on how to improve non-Blacksburg community students.
*Regarding the caste system policy that is being revised, the dean would like to engage the community with the most knowledge before putting it into governance.

*Faculty/Senate-Alex Kinnaman

*None

*Administrative and Professional Senate- Gonzalo Ortiz
4. **General Orders/Discussion Topics-Ranald Adams**
   - Discussion for plans for next semester:
     * more perspectives from students outside the Blacksburg area
     * AREC community (put on agenda in spring)
     * NVC students (Barbara Hoopes will coordinate)
     * TBMH Roanoke (Caroline de Jager will coordinate)

5. **Announcements**
   * Lauren Surface shared links for Graduate Student Awards and Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards. Both can be found here: [https://graduateschool.vt.edu/about/awards/student.html](https://graduateschool.vt.edu/about/awards/student.html) and [https://graduateschool.vt.edu/about/awards/outstanding-mentor-award.html](https://graduateschool.vt.edu/about/awards/outstanding-mentor-award.html).

6. **Adjournment**

   There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:49.