

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

Meeting Minutes – February 19th, 2025

Zoom

Present: Renee LeClair, Lisa Becksford, Nancy Bradley, Aaron Bond, Carolyn Commer, Rachel Holloway, Nathan Lau, Sattar Mansi, Rose McGroarty, Kaylee South, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, Jerald Walz

Absent: Brian Bush, Kirk Cameron, Zai Cook, Paul Emmons, Leslie LaConte, Veronica Montfrans, Jacque Pelzer, Kaustuv Ray, Kiera Schneiderman, Brian Strahm, Tyler Walters

Guests: Janice Austin, John Chappell, Catherine Cotruppi, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Barbara Hoopes, William Huckle, April Myers, Lori Rose, Lauren Surface

Renee called the meeting to order at 3:31pm. A quorum was met.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was approved and adopted.

2. Approval of or announcement of approval of minutes from January 15th, 2025

Minutes were approved.

3. New Business

- Monika Gibson, Graduate Honor System: CGPSP 2024-25B – Resolution to Amend the GHS Constitution. The GHS is changing the process for cases that involve a potential research misconduct as well as an honors systems violation. Additionally, the process of moving cases forward within the honors system will have a few minor changes to improve the administrative flow. Lastly, references to the Graduate Student Assembly will be changed to Graduate and Professional Student Senate.
- Current resolutions:
 - o CFA 2024-25F: Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook to Include a Statement on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom
<https://governance.vt.edu/ResolutionTracker/StatusDetails/529>
 - o CFA 2024-25I: Resolution to Rename the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics <https://governance.vt.edu/ResolutionTracker/StatusDetails/533>
- Institute for Advanced Computing: CGPS&P has been asked to make comments and/or suggestions.
- Dr. Elsie Paredes, Director of the Language and Culture Institute, will join the next CGPS&P meeting on March 5th to discuss English Language testing and services, specifically TOEFL requirements.

- Constructive Dialogue Institute: Members of CGPS&P received invitations to engage with the Perspectives modules 1 and 2. CDI will join the commission on Wednesday, March 19th, to engage in activities to demonstrate how skills learned in the modules can be used in constructive spaces.
- Inclusion and Diversity requirement: The Graduate School has temporarily paused the I&D requirement. A temporary waiver of that requirement is available for any program whose activities might contradict guidance received from Executive Orders or the Department of Education.

4. Committee Reports

- **Graduate Student Appeals - Aimée Surprenant**

- None at this time.

- **DAP (Degree and Academic Progress) - Jerald Walz**

- DAP was requested to review the current policy on Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree programs (<https://catalog.vt.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/#admissiontext>) for clarity and consistency, specifically the final bullet point.
- DAP was tasked with considering whether our required credential qualification for VT graduate admission can be modified to include students who have earned a master's degree from, for example, a European institution without having been awarded a bachelor's degree along the way.
- DAP was tasked with considering whether our policy on Retaking Graduate Courses on the Plan of Study should be revised.

- **NTCO Master's Committee – Barbara Hoopes**

- Janice Austin and Barbara Hoopes met with the Graduate Program Directors to present the proposals that the NTCO Committee has been working on in the plan of study.
- The committee will be viewing recommendations presented during the meeting and will be summarizing this in their next meeting.

- **Graduate School Updates - Aimée Surprenant**

- The Graduate School is working with everyone to manage the executive orders and guidance from the federal government. Dean Surprenant has been communicating with students via her Friday weekly message to graduate students to provide clarity.
- The Graduate School leadership has been working to put together lists of activities and workshops on demand that are readily available to programs.

Constituency Updates

- a. Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Kaustuv Ray
None to report.
- b. Graduate Honors System – Rose McGroarty
 - The GHS is working to streamline the presentation request process and the case processing process.
- c. University Libraries – Lisa Becksford
None to report.
- d. Faculty Senate – Carolyn Commer
 - Faculty Senate has had a lot of discussion about executive orders, in particular the effects on federal funding and how that is affecting faculty.
- e. Undergraduate Student Senate – Kiera Schneiderman
None to report.
- f. Board of Visitors - William Poland
None to report.
- g. AP Faculty Senate - Aaron Bond
None to report.
- h. Staff Senate – Zai Cook
None to report.

University Council and Commission Updates

- a. University Council -
None to report.
- b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (CUSP) - Rachel Holloway
 - University Council passed a revision to Policy 6305, which is a change to satisfactory academic progress.
 - There is a foreign language requirement for undergraduates, that is an admissions requirement that you can fulfill before the time that you graduate. The commission plans to address this to help with the confusion.
 - Enrollment status for undergraduate post-graduation needs to be changed because there are some instances where students are enrolled in additional courses and are considered inactive.

These students being labeled as non-degree status would get them back to active status if they are going to pursue a second undergraduate degree.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.