CGPSA- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
September 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; Hoopes, Barbara; Kinnaman, Alex; Mieses, Kassidy; Ortiz, Gonzalo; Shupe, Sally; Surface, Lauren; Surprenant, Aimée;

Absent with Notice: Lee Learman, Nick Whitesell

Absent: Breighner, Atlas; Sydnor, Shaka; Walters, Tyler

Guests: April Myers

Ranald called the meeting to order at 3:31.

1. Adoption of Agenda-Ranald Adams

Ranald made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

2. Adoption of Minutes from May 02, 2023-Ranald Adams

Ranald made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

3. Member Reports

a. Graduate School Updates—Dean Surprenant
*Dean Surprenant introduced Dr. Barbara Hoopes, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School in the Washington, DC, Metro Area

*The dean thanked GPSS executive board and Rachel Maizel for their work on the compensation task force. Progress was made, but there is more to come.

*The Ombuds office will present the annual report at the next meeting.

*Current enrollment is 7145 students. This is up from 6900 from last year.

*The dean reported that 30 students were able to receive summer funding which came from an endowed fellowship (Cunningham). The chosen students were at the end of their programs and were given $7500. Each made significant progress this summer. Five defended in August and 10 will defend in fall.

*The Supreme Court's decision on Affirmative Action means in the short term, race is hidden to anyone looking at an application. Departments can still do targeting recruitment, but they can't use race as a factor on applications. The dean reminded members to not share student information in an insecure platform.

*The dean mentioned a focus on sustainability at the Graduate School.

b. Senate Updates-

*GPSS-Ranald Adams
*GPSS voted to approve a student union. GPSS will put out a statement.

*Faculty/Senate-Alex Kinnaman
*There have been 2 meetings so far. President Sands will join the next meeting on Friday, September 22nd to answer general questions from faculty to get a sense of foremost issues on faculty minds. The meeting will not be topical, and all general questions are welcome. Please submit questions here: https://forms.gle/c67bqKTtvhjP2zt76. The form is confidential and not collecting emails.

*Administrative and Professional Senate- Gonzalo Ortiz
*None

*Staff Senate-Sally Shupe
*None

*USS-
*None

4. General Orders/Discussion Topics-Ranald Adams

- **Discussion of policy priorities expressed by GPSS leadership**

*Clarify the role of Instructor of Record. They are paid the same as Graduate Assistants, but they are filling the role of faculty. The goal is to make the position more equitable.

*Model of student group accountability is necessary.

*More explicit policies for advisor/advisee relationships needed

*Request for inclusion in assistantship contracts (possible appendix being added to the end of the contracts)

- **Discussion of work plan for CGPSA for the year, with an eye towards developing a consensus**

*More information to graduate students regarding financial status of departments (for example, inside department funding versus outside)

*Invite Kacy Lawrence (Director of Assessment and Strategic Data Initiatives) to discuss data

*Sustainability—what are expectations from the Graduate School?

*Look at other policies from the past to keep them current and relevant.

*Possibly invite the sexual violence task force to discuss their updates.

- **Other relevant issues**

*Dr. Hoopes suggested a representative on this commission from the Washington, D.C. Metro Area.

5. Announcements-

- Graduate School will review the process of electronic thesis/dissertations
- GPSS School Fair is October 2nd from 11:00-3:00

6. **Adjournment-**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.