

**CGPSA – Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
September 11th, 2024**

Zoom link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88634742589>

Meeting ID: 886 3474 2589

Present: Janice Austin, Alex Kinnaman, Lee Learman, Rachel Maizel, Ronnie Mondal, Gonzalo Ortiz, Rohsaan Settle, Sally Shupe, Lauren Surface, Aimée Surprenant

Absent with Notice:

Absent: Mark Sikes, Tyler Walters, Barbara Hoopes

Guests: Catherine Cotrupi, April Myers, Laura Gil Pineda, Lori Rose

Rachel called the meeting to order at 3:38. There was no quorum.

1. Adoption of Agenda – Rachel Maizel

There being no quorum, a motion could not be made to adopt the agenda.

2. Adoption of Minutes from April 24th, 2024.

There being no quorum, a motion could not be made to approve the April 24th, 2024, minutes.

3. New Business -

Goals for 2024-2025:

*Climate and Culture Survey – Rachel is sifting through the data and asked if everyone could go through the document and see if anything is missing.

*Looking at things that lead to the judicial system: preventative measures with funding; streamlining contracts, setting clear expectations for students about funding from the beginning of their contract.

*Changing the chair of your committee: It can be hard to change your chair when your chair is your advisor. Rachel brought up a possible solution of adding a second chair or a co-chair to open the line of communication and streamline the process.

4. Member Reports

a. Graduate School Updates – Dean Surprenant

*Spent the summer with a working group to map out tasks that will end up coming through this commission.

*Will have the report complete in a week.

*The Graduate School has many workshops planned for this year. Student Initiated Proposals and Individual Development Plans are a few that were mentioned.

*Faculty mentoring events/workshops: All new faculty will attend a workshop to learn about mentoring. The Dean has put together a “mentoring toolbox” that is in the Graduate Program Director SharePoint.

*The Graduate School will be partnering with three community colleges to create teaching opportunities for our PhD and master's students. The college will pair each student with a faculty mentor. This will be set up as a COOP internship and some students will be paid and some unpaid. International students can qualify. More information to come.

*There are flow charts located on the Graduate School’s website that show what procedure should be followed for several processes, including exam scheduling. These flow charts can be found here - <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/graduate-catalog-policies-procedures.html>

*CGPSP will be looking into the candidacy status discount and its policies this year. The goal is to make it more student friendly so that they do not have to apply for it every semester.

*The Graduate School is gathering annual review templates from each department.

b. Senate Updates -

• GPSS – Rachel Maizel

- Goal 1: By the end of the year have recommendations following the GPSS climate and culture survey result and subsequent 2024 summer graduate committee. This can be further broken down in goals 2-4.
- Goal 2: Have subcommittees within CGPSA to address the summer graduate committee’s findings--will involve working with various offices, caucuses, commissions, groups on campus.
- Goal 3: Create a process for analyzing the graduate school’s quantitative data from the 3 cycles of the previous surveys.
- Goal 4: International student specific subcommittee for specifically unique international student climate experiences/concerns.
- Goal 5: Create a designated seat on the Commission of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs for the extended campus and Greater Washington D.C., Metro Area

• Faculty/Senate – Alex Kinnaman

*Has met once, will meet again on Friday, 9/13.

*There is an anonymous form soliciting questions and concerns to bring to President Sands this Friday, 9/13. Responses are due by noon on 9/13, and Alex will make sure any responses are added to the Faculty Senate’s list of questions. It is anonymous and can be submitted multiple times. Here is the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJSAKTtJDikCh0D6pGC6sdAfWbPMGn8DtF98F_Yhjbi9sjdg/viewform

*Alex followed up with Rachel Miles about any recommendations for the Climate Working Group and once they have the short blurbs for each sub-committee, she will reach out to Faculty Senate Leadership as well.

- **Administrative and Professional Senate -**

*Nothing to report

- **Staff Senate -**

*Nothing to report

- **USS -**

*Nothing to report

- **Honor System for Faculty – Ronnie Mondal**

*The name is still being decided. It will likely end up being very different from an honors system, so that part of the name will certainly be changing.

*Academic Bullying: There is no standard policy in place for all departments to follow regarding Title IX. Getting to a person that can help can be difficult, so a lot of universities have done working groups to handle this. Ronnie says that they had a meeting with Faculty Senate to propose a working group that will either fall under the Provost's or the President's charge. To move forward, they need to collect data and standardize it so that they can form their recommendation. Their goal is to bring the following resources together so that they will be available in one place to all graduate students: HR, Ombudsman, and a few other resources. This would be a centralized office for conflict resolution. So far, everyone seems supportive. The Provost is on board and so are the faculty – the recommendation needs to be written.

*They met over the summer following the climate survey results. They began to form recommendations and identified areas to investigate further. They want to prevent things from going through the honors system.

4. General Orders/Discussion Topics -

We would like to form 3 standing sub-committees in CGPSA this year. Volunteers for these committees are being actively recruited. They do not need to be from the commission.

1. Climate issues subcommittee—address the preventative measures outlined in the summer climate report.
2. International student subcommittee—address issues specific to international graduate students.
3. Data subcommittee—continue to analyze climate data and summarize the results.

5. Announcements -

*Nothing to report

6. Adjournment -

There being no further business, and no quorum being met, the meeting ended at 4:22pm.