

## Minutes

### Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs

February 11, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Zoom

**Present** – Ronnie Mondal (presiding), Janice Austin, Meaghan Davidson, Dan Hong, Natalie Kehrli, Andrea Lopez, Gonzalo Ortiz, Mihir Patel, Sally Shupe, Lauren Surface, Aimée Surprenant, Jessica Wilkes, Madison Wypyski

**Absent with Notice:** None

**Absent:** Sehrish Altaf, Mennatallah Fahmy, Barbara Hoopes, Lee Learman, Sudev Namboodri, Nicholas Needham, Aarav Parikh, Rohsaan Settle, Tyler Walters,

**Guests:** Pooja Vilas Bhagawat, Catherine Cotrupi, Katie Greg, Mryan Mitchell, Lori Rose

Ronnie called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### 1. Adoption of Agenda

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

#### 2. Approval of and posting of minutes of January 14, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 14 minutes.

#### 3. Unfinished Business

##### Resolution CGPSA 2025-26A

Ronnie presented the [resolution](#), noting that a vote will be tabled for the next meeting. The item will remain under unfinished business pending receipt of the revised document.

#### 4. New Business

##### Resolution CGPSA 2025-26B

Ronnie presented the [resolution](#) for first reading, the Resolution to Form a Campus Working Group to Study Graduate and Professional Student Utilization of the Student Activity Fee. Pooja clarified that the resolution is informed by survey responses from GPSS senators regarding student activity fee utilization. Discussion included consideration of language in the resolution referencing “adequate value” of the student activity fee and how that applies to campuses with different fee structures, as well as recognition that any changes to fees would ultimately require approval beyond the working group.

#### 5. Reports

- Graduate School – Aimée Surprenant: The Graduate School continues to meet monthly with Graduate Program Directors and Coordinators. Draft guidelines have been developed outlining best practices and expectations for graduate advisory committees. These draft recommendations emphasize consistent engagement, constructive feedback, preparation for meetings, and active mentorship to ensure students receive meaningful support. The document is intended as guidance rather than policy and remains under discussion. There is a

continued development of mentoring resources, including expectation-setting tools for faculty and students.

- Faculty Senate – No representation: None at this time.
- AP Faculty Senate – Gonzalo Ortiz: None at this time.
- Staff Senate – Sally Shupe: None at this time.

## **6. Presentation**

Pooja Vilas Bhagawat, President of GPSS, presented an overview of GPSS priorities:

- Increased Senate participation this year, with approximately 84 senators representing nine colleges and consistent quorum at meetings.
- Plans for advocacy programming, including an immigration information session.
- Administration of funding programs including travel funding, graduate research development funding, and a cap-and-gown loan program.
- Review of funding distribution across colleges to ensure more equitable participation in funding opportunities.
- Simplification of funding policies and provision of training to graduate student organization leaders, resulting in increased funding requests compared to the previous year.

## **7. Announcements**

- Next meeting will be on March 25, 2026.

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 p.m.