

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
Resolution to Explore Alternative Curricular Avenues for Graduate Education
Requirements
CGPSP 2025-26B**

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet	September 8, 2025
First Reading by CGPSP	October 15, 2025
Approval by CGPSP	November 19, 2025
First Reading by Faculty Senate	October 24, 2025
Approval by Faculty Senate	November 21, 2025
Staff Senate Comment	October 6, 2025
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	October 17, 2025
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Waived Right to Comment	November 26, 2025
Undergraduate Student Senate Waived Right to Comment	November 26, 2025
First Reading, University Council	February 2, 2026
Approved, University Council	February 16, 2026
Approved, President	February 17, 2026
Effective Date	Upon Approval

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech’s “Principles of Shared Governance” incorporated in the University Council Constitution and Bylaws state, in part: “. . . [I]n the rare instances exigent circumstances require university leaders to act outside the structure of shared governance, they will explain the exigent circumstances and discuss the action or actions taken in open forums and in a timely manner. . .”; and

WHEREAS, President Sands informed the University Council Cabinet on September 1, 2025 of a decision to repeal CGPSP 2017-18A Resolution to Incorporate an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Graduate Education and PPM 307 in their entirety; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2025, President Sands informed the University Council and the university community of the same decision; and

WHEREAS, the University Council Cabinet approved the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies and Faculty Senate to recommend subsequent actions that should be taken;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recognizes the authority of the President to take such actions “in the rare instances exigent circumstances require university leaders to act outside the structure of shared governance,” as codified in the Virginia Tech Principles of Shared Governance in the University Council Constitution, but asserts that the curriculum of the university’s graduate degree programs is the purview of the faculty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies will explore alternative curricular avenues that are in alignment with the Principles of Community, reflecting the values of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and

the Principles of Community, reflecting the values of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University as an institution that highly values diversity, including diversity of thought and experience, and fosters an inclusive environment, encouraging a culture of opportunity for all, which immensely enriches our campus, and is committed to providing every student an education that is free from discrimination and grounded in merit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that newly proposed graduate programs, policies, practices, and actions in every regard will comply with the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal civil rights laws. This includes, but is not limited to: admissions, hiring, promotion, compensation, financial aid, scholarships, prizes, administrative support, discipline, housing, graduation ceremonies, and all other aspects of student, academic, and campus life.



AP Faculty Senate Comments

Comments on CGPSP 2025-26B Resolution Affirming Administrative Action Under Exigent Circumstances

October 17, 2025

The A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorsees the CGPSP 2025-26B Resolution Affirming Administrative Action Under Exigent Circumstances.

Although the resolution received majority approval and endorsement from the A/P Faculty Senators, we are providing all submitted comments for your awareness and thoughtful consideration. A formal response to these remarks is not required:

I do not recall A/P Faculty Senate being consulted or informed that the exigent circumstances clause was in effect when decisions were made relevant to this language of this resolution. Therefore, to affirm ex post facto an action that is now communicated as due to necessity strikes me as redundant. I see no necessity to this Resolution, apart from a public affirmation of the authority already vested in the university's leadership structure to make decisions in exigent circumstances as it sees fit for the good of the university.

I do not think this decision benefits our community and that it was done in haste. This is reactionary and constituencies were not given the chance to respond before the decision was made.



Staff Senate Comments

CGPSP 2025-26B

10/6/2025

Staff Senate has concerns towards the sentiment, precedent, and the source of the pressure to affect academic freedom surrounding the circumstances leading to President Sands' affirmation but ultimately supports the mitigation of risk to the University by repeal of CGPSP 2017-18A.

Staff Senate has no further comment.

Thank you,

Gabe Petry, Chair, Staff Senate Policies and Issues Committee