

CGPSP Minutes
May 3, 2023
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Graduate Life Center Room 238 or Zoom

Present: Monty Abbas, Coy Allen, Lisa Becksford, Stephen Biscotte, Nancy Bradley, Joe Eifert, Rob Emmett, Paul Emmons, Tom Ewing, Jim Hawdon, Eric Kaufman, Sattar Mansi, Rose McGroarty, Rebecca Pauly, Aimée Surprenant, Noor Tasnim, Alina Valop, Scott Weimer, Pengtao Yue

Absent with Notice: Mary Kasarda

Absent: Kayla Alward, Christina DiMarino, Chip Frazier, Hannah Parks, Tristan Southerland, Tyler Walters

Guests: Janice Austin, Lori Buchanan, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Bill Huckle, Carrie Mayer, Kenneth Wong, Kang Xia

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 5, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 19, 2023 minutes. The motion carried.

3. New Business

- *Graduate student comprehensive fees for off campus CALS graduate students-Kang Xia*
- Presentation was shared. Most CALS students spend 2 years off campus conducting research. They are still required to pay the comprehensive fee. Most of the services associated with the fees are not accessible to the students. Students can request a reduced comprehensive fee, but the waiver is minimal.
- Dean Surprenant added that the fee is based on campus enrollment. The Bursar and Finance office would possibly be able to waive fees, but the Graduate School cannot. The dean suggested to the presenter to contact Vandevord. She also pointed out that extended campuses have different tuition.

- *Graduate Scheduling ESS System thesis reading requirement-Jim Hawdon*
- When faculty are approving a defense date, the thesis should be read before the defense is scheduled. It's risky to not read it because a student could submit a version that is not high quality, yet when it has been approved and the student presents their dissertation, they may have to accept low quality work.
- Possible solution: consult with GPD and advisor to assure student is ready. Then the committee will decide.
- A member said that the student needs to provide ample time for the thesis to be read before scheduling the actual defense. How do faculty know if the student is ready to defend if they have not read it?
- Another member wants to make sure the student is ready and reminded commission that a student can ask for an extension.
- Janice talked about the history of the scheduling. June 2019 is when the language was changed to reflect a softer language. This commission could revise the language if needed.
- The student needs to be given time to fix things if needed.
- Another member said the system is workable and this will be discussed further in the fall.
- A member reminded commission that there should be regular committee meetings, giving feedback to the student. If a change is made, students would need to turn in their thesis four weeks earlier.

4. Committee Reports-Montasir Abbas

a. Graduate Curriculum Committee-Coy Allen

The GCC reviewed and approved 13 new courses and 1 degree. This was the final meeting of the GCC.

b. Graduate Student Appeals- Aimée Surprenant

There are currently no appeals.

c. DAP-

- Committee is working on creating a document describing the DAP charge, which includes some recommended topics for next year. The final document should be completed soon.

5. Graduate School Updates-Aimée Surprenant

a. General Updates-

*Commencement will be Wednesday, May 10 and Sunday, May 14th for NVC/DC area.

*There are a record number of graduates in Blacksburg this spring. There are over 1,000 walking, which is up 100 PhD students and 200-300 master's students.

*Dean Surprenant thanked everyone on the commission for their work.

*She reminded members that there will be a survey on governance coming out soon.

*Two resolutions (C and D) were approved at the second reading during University Council.

*Dean Surprenant told everyone to have a great summer.

6. Constituency Updates- Montasir Abbas

a. Graduate and Professional Student Senate-Ben Beiter

No update

b. Graduate Honor System- Rose McGroarty

The Associate Chair position is open.

c. University Library Committee-Lisa Becksford

No update

d. Faculty Senate- Eric Kaufman and Jim Hawdon

Faculty Senate will hold a vote on May 5th to fill a vacancy for an officer seat.

e. Undergraduate student Senate-Tristan Southerland

No update

f. Board of Visitors-Anna Buhle

No update

g. AP Faculty Senate-Rob Emmett

The new executive team was announced.

7. University Council and Commission Updates- Montasir Abbas

a. University Council- Montasir Abbas

Our two resolutions (C and D) had the second reading at the UC. They were approved.

b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Polices- Stephen Biscotte

No update

8. Announcements-

- This is the last meeting of the semester.

- Monty will be the chair again next year.

9. Adjournment-

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