

**CGPSP**  
**September 6, 2023**  
**3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**Graduate Life Center Room 238/Zoom**

**Present:** Monty Abbas (presiding), Coy Allen, Lisa Becksford, Stephen Biscotte, Nancy Bradley, Carolyn Commer, Zai Cook, Paul Emmons, Tom Ewing, Chip Frazier, Mary Kasarda, Renee LeClair, Sattar Mansi, Rose McGroarty, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, Jerald Walz, and Scott Weimer

**Absent with Notice:** Christina DiMarino, Joe Eifert

**Absent:** Rob Emmett

**Guests:** Joshua Atta-Kumi, Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Barbara Hoopes, Bill Huckle, Rachel Maizel, Carrie Mayer, April Myers

Monty called the meeting to order at 3:31. After a few minutes, a quorum was present.

**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 May 3, 2023**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 3, 2023 minutes.

**3. New Business**

\*Formation of a sub-committee to explore the steps needed to create a separate category of professional masters. This sub-committee would focus on application, admissions, steps to degree, degree awarding, etc.

\*The ad hoc committee will look into this and develop a plan to implement changes.

\*Dr. Hoopes was appointed chair of this committee.

Motion was passed and committee will bring a discussion back to this group.

**4. Acceptance and Posting of Committee Reports and/or Minutes**

- **Graduate Student Appeals Committee-** Aimée Surprenant  
Suggestion that the commission look at ways we look at appeals. Informal versus formal (informal-work out a deal informally vs. formal-appeal of GHS denied)
- **DAP-** Mary Kasarda  
Mary went over the charge of what DAP committee does.  
This can be found in the working documents folder on Share Point.  
Mary encouraged members of the commission to join the DAP committee by contacting her: [maryk@vt.edu](mailto:maryk@vt.edu)
- **Graduate School Updates-**Aimée Surprenant

\*Dean Surprenant introduced Dr. Barbara Hoopes as the Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area. She thanked GPSS for their work on the task force and specifically Rachel Maizel for being a consistent attender of meetings.

\*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.

\*Sloan Grant is for a pilot program: Center for Systemic Change

- **Constituency Updates-Mony Abbas**

- a. Graduate and Professional Student Senate**—Rachel Maizel

- GLU went public. GPSS gave a statement of support. GPSS is analyzing the 5% stipend and performing department climate studies. Physics recently completed this. GPSS is refining GA contract guidelines to hold people accountable and they are focusing on food security.

- b. Graduate Student Honor System**—Rose McGroarty

- GHS is presenting for departments who have requested GHS information. They are undergoing panelist training as well. There were 28 cases in the spring (all are almost completed).

- c. University Library Committee**—Lisa Becksford

- No update

- d. Faculty Senate**—Carolyn Commer and Jerald Walz

- Thanked the dean and Dale Pike for the helpful statement regarding AI. There are ongoing discussions around AI.

- e. Undergraduate Student Senate**—N/A

- f. Board of Visitors**—Emily Tirrell

- No update

- g. AP Faculty Senate**—Rob Emmett

- No update

- **University Council and Commission Updates**—Monty Abbas

- a. University Council**—Monty Abbas

- Monty explained the goals of 3 frames: operational, responsive, proactive  
There is a list of items regarding potential changes to student conduct discussed in UC.

- b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**—Stephen Biscotte

- CUSP has not met yet, but preliminary goals are: student success, questioning policies and practices in order to help retention

**5. Adjournment-** Monty Abbas

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:27.