

CGPSP Minutes
November 15, 2023
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Graduate Life Center Room 238/Zoom

Present: Monty Abbas (presiding), Lisa Becksford, Zai Cook, Paul Emmons, Rachel Holloway, Renee LeClair, Sattar Mansi, Rose McGroarty, Monica Ponder, Aimée Surprenant, Tyler Walters, Jerald Walz, and Scott Weimer

Absent with Notice: Coy Allen, Carolyn Commer, Mary Kasarda, Kwok Tsang

Absent: Nancy Bradley, Jacob Curry, Christina DiMarino, Robert Emmett, Tom Ewing, Chip Frazier, Charly Hartle, Tarisa Ross

Guests: Janice Austin, Kim Daniloski, Kevin Edgar, Bill Huckle, Rachel Maizel, Carrie Mayer, Lauren Surface, Emily Tirrell

Monty called the meeting to order at 3:32. Quorum was not met.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Minutes will need to be approved electronically since there was no quorum.

2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 4, 2023

Minutes will need to be approved electronically since there was no quorum.

3. New Business-Governance Discussion Questions-Monty Abbas

Monty discussed each question and opened up the conversation to the commission. Questions and answers are below.

- a. How well are the roles of commissions, senates, University Council Cabinet, University Council, and the President understood? **Dean Surprenant discussed that sometimes there are too many levels (work gets split and can be watered down). Quorum has not yet been met this semester in CGPSA/Who does what? Need to fill positions/ Regarding detailed questions, there is often a level of confusion on specifics/ The importance of serving could be clarified/ There are concerns about duplications of programs and the process of getting programs or courses approved. The hope is that Courseleaf will help with this.**
- b. How well are the approval path of a resolution and timeline understood? How might this be streamlined? **A flowchart makes it straightforward. Dean Surprenant said you don't want it too streamlined so things don't go through too quickly. Streamlining may be interpreted as a way to reduce shared governance. Adding notifications may be helpful.**
- c. Are any important constituencies missing from membership on your commission/senate? If so, which one(s)? **No**
- d. One of the goals of the new governance structure was to reduce the size of University Council and balance representation on University Council more appropriately. Would you recommend any changes? **No**
- e. Has it been difficult to fill the positions on your commission/senate? If so, what do you think is the reason(s)? **Have not articulated issues discussed. No clarity on who is taking the lead. CGPSA? CGPSP? Better attendance is needed. Member suggested only meeting once a month.**

f. How effective are (two-way) communications:

- Between elected members of your commission or senate and their respective constituencies?
- Between senate commissions and their respective senates?
- Between the bodies of shared governance? **No discussion**

g. Are you satisfied with the transparency of the shared governance system? **Need clarity on new courses and program approval as they move through the system/ GCC work: how did it translate in the process? What will be missing?/ Lack of graduate level learning objectives and course proposals/ identifying conflicts between existing proposals/ can it be pushed down to the college?**

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

- **Graduate Student Appeals Committee**- Aimée Surprenant

No current appeals

- **DAP**- Coy Allen

No update

- **Ad Hoc Masters**-Barbara Hoopes

No update

- **Graduate School Updates**-Aimée Surprenant

*HBCU/MSI Summit had over 150 attendees from 17 universities. The summit is organized to help faculty and graduate students connect and find partners for research opportunities and for students to visit and gain professional development experience. Dean Surprenant thanked Erica Cooper, Ellington Graves, as well as the Graduate School staff and faculty to helped as well. Catherine Cotrupi organized the successful summit.

* Roundtable in ethics. There is a culture where failure is punished. VT has ethics requirements for all students. Departments have submitted a plan for their students. Research ethics training plan in the future.

*Government relations is working on a workshop on effective advocacy for Graduate Students.

- **Constituency Updates**-Monty Abbas

a. Graduate and Professional Student Senate—Rachel Maizel

Resolutions are being drafted in GPSS. Climate and culture surveys are being sent to different programs.

b. Graduate Student Honor System—Rose McGroarty

*Continuing work on panelist and facilitator training.

*GHS is working through active cases.

c. University Library Committee—Lisa Becksford

No update

d. Faculty Senate—Carolyn Commer and Jerald Walz

*second reading of COR.

e. Undergraduate Student Senate—Jacob Curry

No update

f. Board of Visitors—Emily Tirrell

*When BOV met, they went over strategic plans, enrollment updates, DEI and Innovation Campus.

g. AP Faculty Senate—Rob Emmett

No update

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

a. University Council —Monty Abbas

No update

b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies—Rachel Holloway

*Working on policy revisions but they do not affect the graduate level.

5. Adjournment- Monty Abbas

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:35.