

CGPSP Minutes
February 21, 2024
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Graduate Life Center Room 238/Zoom

Present: Monty Abbas (presiding), Coy Allen, Lisa Becksford, Nancy Bradley, Carolyn Commer, Christina DiMarino, Joe Eifert, Rob Emmett, Paul Emmons, Tom Ewing, Chip Frazier, Rachel Holloway, Mary Kasarda, Renee LeClair, Sattar Mansi, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, and Scott Weimer

Absent with Notice: Jerald Walz

Absent: Zai Cook, Charly Hartle, Rose McGroarty, Tarisa Ross, Katelyn Steide, Tyler Walters

Guests: Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Bill Huckle, Xiaoyan Ma, Rachel Maizel, Carrie Mayer, April Myers, Dale Pike, Lauren Surface

Monty called the meeting to order at 3:31. There was an establishment of a quorum.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was approved and adopted.

2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of January 17, 2024

Minutes were approved.

3. New Business-

- o **Discussion of Generative AI and its impact on graduate education---Dale Pike**

*Dale Pike (TLOS) came to share his thoughts. His slides are in the documents folder in Share Point for February 21. Here are some highlights of the conversation:

*Available chat bots are open-ended. To be an effective support, move to the next level. We need reliable answers and critical literacy to tell when answers are efficient, reliable, and accurate. More confidence is needed.

*A member asked: Do we have the data from VT regarding international students and being flagged? Right now, AI detectors are used by faculty to "catch" inappropriate use.

*AI is trained on patterns of speech and formulas to detect, so there are often false positives. There are no plans to implement AI detection right now. Faculty can consider different assessments (no multiple choice, etc.) but they need to be offered more resources.

*A member asked: Are there workshops for faculty on this? No, there will need to be some implemented to build awareness for faculty and give concrete recommendations. The governor has given some recommendations for higher ed in order to establish some formal support in this area.

*A member asked: How will "stress testing" help the faculty become more aware? You can put in your own questions and see the responses.

- o **Approach to undergraduate policy review----Rachel Holloway**

*Policy work related to the growth of the undergraduate population fits national agenda (undergrad costs and increasing number of students).

*The work starts with data and looking at best practices.

*Measure what we value and value what we measure

*One goal is a 73% 2028 graduation rate. The current rate is 68.9%....looking at underserved student success.

*The four year graduation rate varies across majors. We need to identify barriers to success.

*The EAB (Education Advisory Board) was a research group first.

*Also need to look at transfer students and other universities to see how we can better serve students.

*Those in the know: undergraduate Associate Deans and Academic Advisors. The policy they wanted to change was DOE (date of entry) and DOG (date of graduation).

*Policy 91 is another name for policy 6305.

*Scholarships and Financial Aid→ thinking carefully about holds and how they can affect students.

*Continuing work on emergency funds. The takeaways:

- Couldn't have done it without data
- Listening to stakeholders
- How to prioritize what will make the biggest difference for students
- Be realistic about timelines

*24/7 online tutoring (tiered tutoring—graduate students→ undergraduate students) along with undergraduate peer mentoring

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

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

1 guilty plagiarism case

Faculty member reviewed the appeal and it was denied

- **DAP-** Coy Allen

Committee is moving forward. Members are:

Coy Allen (Chair)

Bill Huckle

Kevin Edgar

Joe Eifert

Byron Tsang

Scott Weimer

- **Ad Hoc Masters-**Barbara Hoopes

Please see the Share Point folder titled Ad Hoc Committee for the report.

- **Graduate School Updates-**Aimée Surprenant

*Giving Day reminders

*Resolution Tracker—The dean reminded members that they can use the Resolution Tracker found here: <https://governance.vt.edu/ResolutionTracker/UnderReview> to see what resolutions are out there and what the status is. Currently, there is a CGPSA resolution and a CFA resolution E that are relevant to CGPSP.

*Mentoring information is on the Graduate School website <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/expectations-for-graduate-education-overview/mentoring-for-students.html> There is a link at the end for NIH webinars and lectures.

*Policies and Procedures on the Graduate School website
The Grad School is working with staff to create an academic journey map, looking at data and roadblocks.

- **Constituency Updates**-Monty Abbas

a. Graduate and Professional Student Senate—Rachel Maizel

*First read for CGPSA Resolution 2023-24A Resolution to protect against caste and caste-based discrimination

*Department surveys are being scheduled

*Investigating graduate student suicides is a topic being discussed at GPSS and CGPSA.

b. Graduate Student Honor System—Rose McGroarty

No report

c. University Library Committee—Lisa Becksford

No update

d. Faculty Senate—Carolyn Commer and Jerald Walz

*research metrics and joining AAU

*instructor workloads and salaries

e. Undergraduate Student Senate—Karl Rice

No update

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

* Proposed changed to resolution changes (need a notice of resolution with a brief description to go to the cabinet to see if a resolution should go to a commission)

b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies—Rachel Holloway

see above

5. Adjournment- Monty Abbas

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:44.