

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
**Zoom**

**Present: Joshua Atta-Kumi, Aaron Bond, Carolyn Commer, Leslie LaConte, Rennee LeClair, Rachel Holloway, Barbara Hoopes, Sattar Mansi, Jacque Pelzer, Kaustuv Ray, Brian Strahm, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, Jerald Walz**

**Absent with Notice: Lisa Becksford**

**Absent: Kirk Cameron, Zai Cook, Paul Emmons, Rose McGroarty, Kaylee South**

**Guests: Catherine Cotruppi, William Huckle, Justin Lemkul, April Myers, Lori Rose, Lauren Surface**

Renee called the meeting to order at 3:34pm. The quorum was not met.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was approved and adopted.

**2. Approval of or announcement of approval and posting of minutes from September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Minutes were approved.

**3. New Business**

- Current Resolutions for Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) - Justin Lemkul:
  - CFA has been discussing issues involving faculty that also involve graduate students. On Friday they will be meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of *CFA 2024-25D: Updates to the Faculty Handbook Regarding Ethics of Intimate Relationships Involving Faculty*.
  - Other resolutions circulating through CFA include; Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook Regarding Procedures for Promotion and Tenure and Related Appeals, Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook Description of Clinical Faculty Ranks, and Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook Description of Administrative Support for University Distinguished Professors.
- Renee LeClair
  - Resolution Proposal for working group under the Provost and the President, “whose function would be to formulate recommendations for a university-wide policy to combat

bullying, unprofessional, and non-collegial behavior toward graduate and professional students. Through their work, the CWG will recommend a standardized grievance process and response, by Fall 2025, which will be accountable, accessible, and transparent, while rectifying existing policy gaps or inconsistencies.”

#### **4. Committee Reports**

- **Graduate Student Appeals Committee – Bill Huckle**

- Nothing to report

- **DAP (Degree and Academic Progress) - Jerald Walz**

- Will be meeting next week to discuss the things that Dean Surprenant has asked them to look into.

- **Ad Hoc Masters – Barbara Hoopes**

- A few new members this year.
- Primary focus will be the dual degree and certificate process.

- **Graduate School Updates – Aimee Surprenant**

- Dean Surprenant visited William & Mary last week for the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS) meeting. This provided opportunities to talk to other deans, discuss options for those interested in graduate school and provide them with the necessary resources, and reach out to community colleges to provide them with the resources to pass along to their students who are thinking about graduate school.
- Many events and receptions being planned
- Northern VA Steering Committee has updated plans for the greater D.C. area – the idea is there will be a Vice President for this region and more information on plans can be found here: [https://news.vt.edu/articles/2024/09/DCarea\\_SteeringCommittee.html](https://news.vt.edu/articles/2024/09/DCarea_SteeringCommittee.html)

- **Constituency Updates**

- a. **Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Joshua Atta-Kumi**

- Nothing to report

- b. **Graduate Honor System – Rose McGroarty**

- Nothing to report

- c. **University Library Committee – Lisa Becksford**

- Nothing to report

**d. Faculty Senate – Carolyn Commer**

- Nothing to report

**e. Undergraduate Student Senate**

- Nothing to report

**f. Board of Visitors – William Hutton**

- Nothing to report

**g. AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond**

- Nothing to report

**h. Staff Senate – Zai Cook**

- Nothing to report

**• University Council and Commission Updates**

**a. University Council**

- Nothing to report

**b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Rachel Holloway**

- The commission is hoping to move the revision of Policy 65 this year, which will be a major change of policy.

**5. Adjournment – Renee LeClair**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06pm.