

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies**  
**Meeting Minutes – November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Zoom**

**Present:** Renee LeClair, Janice Austin, Lisa Becksford, Stephen Biscotte, Nancy Bradley, Zai Cook, Carolyn Commer, Rose McGroarty, Barbara Hoopes, Sattar Mansi, William Poland, Kaustuv Ray, Brian Strahm, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, Jerald Walz

**Absent with Notice:** Leslie LaConte

**Absent:** Aaron Bond, Brian Bush, Kirk Cameron, Paul Emons, Nathan Lau, Veronica van Montfrans, Jacque Pelzer, Kaylee South, Tyer Walters

**Guests:** Danielle Davis, Catherine Cotrupi, Kevin Edgar, William Huckle, Rachel Maizel, Ronnie Mondal, Demetria Somervell, Lauren Surface

Renee called the meeting to order at 3:33pm. A quorum was met.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was approved and adopted.

**2. Approval of or announcement of approval and posting of minutes from October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Minutes were approved.

**3. New Business**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of CGPSP 24-25A: Summary of comments from Staff Senate, AP Senate, and Faculty Senate, and a letter of support from the Graduate Senate
  - o Both Staff Senate and AP Senate wanted the scope of the resolution to be extended to include post docs. AP Senate specifically asked for it to be extended for other individuals across campus.
  - o We can use this resolution as a draft/model for other commissions to propose working groups in a similar fashion.
  - o Comments, feedback, modifications: Bill Huckle suggested to frame this as ways to incentivize, recognize, and define professional behavior.
  - o Ronnie Mondal: CGPSA will be working on defining and incentives for professional behavior. This was specifically to cater to incidents that are so egregious that you must respond in a punitive manner.
  - o Rachel Maizel will create a summary of how CGPSA is working on this.

**A motion was made to approve the resolution as written and so moved with no abstentions.**

- Discussion of Holistic Admissions – Catherine Cotrupi
  - Graduate School Recruitment Efforts & Recommendations:
    - o Strategy 1: Utilize Databases
    - o Strategy 2: Utilize Virginia Tech and Hokies
    - o Strategy 3: Consider “Partner” Schools
    - o Strategy 4: Know the answers – and respond

- Strategy 5: Be Proactive
- Strategy 6: Be Proactive, Be Accessible, and Seek the Talent
- Strategy 7: What's the "REAL" Experience?
- Strategy 8: Proactively work on enhancing the "REAL" experience
- Strategy 9: Workshops offered by the Graduate School
- Dr. Cotrupi is welcoming suggestions for strategy, resource sharing, and questions. She can be reached at [cotrupi@vt.edu](mailto:cotrupi@vt.edu).

#### 4. Committee Reports

- **DAP (Degree and Academic Progress) - Jerald Walz**
  - Will meet next week, Janice Austin will be in attendance to help gain understanding about items that Dean Surprenant requested they investigate.
- **Ad Hoc Master's Committee – Barbara Hoopes**
  - The committee continued its conversation on the potential for streamlining the process for applying for multiple degrees and/or certificates. We revisited the Graduate School policy that a course can only apply to two degrees or certificates. Though this creates complications in some degree programs, it does create a clear boundary that students and programs can understand and adhere to. In considering whether there was reason to consider a change in this policy, we discussed certificates that are embedded in degrees, Masters degrees that are earned "along the way" to the PhD, along with various certificates, and the complications associated with accelerated degree programs. We are going to get additional information on SCHEV/SACS requirements, as well as Undergraduate policy, to guide us in our discussion of this issue.
- **Graduate School Updates - Aimée Surprenant**
  - The Global Distinction Working Group is starting work again so progress will be provided when able.
  - Next week is Little Hokie Hand-me-downs and donations are needed. Gently used clothes, books, toys, lactation aids, strollers, unexpired car seats, baby gear, diapers, etc. Can be dropped off at the Graduate Life center front desk and Women's Center until November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Graduate Professional Senate – Kaustuv Ray**
  - None to report.
- **Graduate Honors System – Rose McGroarty**
  - No cases submitted this semester.
  - GHS is working on a new system that will make it easier for people to submit reports and case evidence for reports.
  - There is a new form for departments and classes to request a GHS presentation or interactive activity.

- **University Libraries – Lisa Becksford**
  - None to report.
- **Faculty Senate – Carolyn Commer**
  - None to report.
- **Undergraduate Senate**
  - None to report.
- **Board of Visitors – William Poland**
  - None to report.
- **AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond**
  - None to report.
- **Staff Senate – Zai Cook**
  - There was a change to base pay rates that came out on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - There was expansion of EAP benefits for wage employees. Next meeting will provide more updates.

## **University Council and Commission Updates**

### **a. University Council**

- None to report.

### **b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Stephen Biscotte for Rachel Holloway**

- Policy 6305 is at Faculty Senate for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading around satisfactory academic progress.
- CUSP began a discussion of defining key elements across campus related to programs. Terms like degree, major, option, track, concentration, area of emphasis, minor can vary across campus so it would be helpful to have clear and consistent nomenclature.

## **5. Adjournment – Renee LeClair**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:21pm.