

# MINUTES

## Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

November 19, 2025

3:30pm

Zoom

**Present:** Renee LeClair (presiding), Aaron Bond, Sonja Crockett for Meng Zhu, Kiri Goldbeck DeBose, Ioannis Koutromanos, Leslie LaConte, Kendyl Lewis, Phil Nelson, Kayla Robertson, Molly Ryan, Jill Sible, Kaylee South, Bryan Strahm, Aimée Surprenant, Jerald Walz

**Absent with Notice:** Kwok Tsang

**Absent:** Kirk Cameron, Nicole Holt, Veronica van Montfrans, Cayce Myers, Joshua Neal, Tyler Walters

**Guests:** Priscilla Baker, Pooja Vilas Bhagawat, John Chappell, Catherine Cotrupi, Kevin Edgar, Heidi Gilbert, Barbara Hoopes, William Huckle, April Myers, Suzanne Shelbourne, Lauren Surface

Renee called the meeting to order at 3:32pm. A quorum was present.

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

### 2. Approval of and posting of minutes of November 5, 2025

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 5 minutes.

### 3. Unfinished Business

#### CGPSP 2025-26B

Renee presented the [resolution](#) for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. Edits to the resolution from Faculty Senate include a modification of the title and multiple changes to the Where As statements. A vote was taken on the motion to approve the resolution as presented, and the motion passed.

### 4. New Business

#### CGPSP 2024-25A Working Group Recommendations

Renee presented the [recommendations](#) from the CGPSP 2024-25A working group, noting that they will be further discussed in January.

### 5. Reports

- Graduate Student Appeals – Aimée Surprenant: None at this time.
- Graduate School – Aimée Surprenant: The Graduate School is experiencing increasingly complex combinations of behavior and academic integrity issues.

- Degrees and Academic Progress – Jerald Walz: DAP is working to complete work on prior recommendations and will forward resolution proposals to begin the governance process in January.
- NTCO GS Committee – Barbara Hoopes: The Graduate School Readmission process has been clarified on the [website](#) to include new visuals, clarified language, and active-duty military exceptions. Conversations continue around establishing a zero-registration status for students absent for more than one year but needing library/email access. Janice Austin presented to the committee a proposal to decouple certificate application and certificate conferral using revised forms. In the new process, students would declare their intent to complete a certificate at the beginning of the first relevant term, but the course list would not appear until the certificate conferral form, when students indicate the courses completed to earn the certificate. Jason Deane and Aaron Bond reported on their research into higher education institutions in Virginia that offer graduate credit for experiential or prior learning. They found that Virginia law allows accredited colleges and universities to grant credit for such experiences, but no more than 25% of the credit for a student's degree program can account for it.
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Kendyl Lewis: GPSS is working to ensure that all graduate students received the 3% increase in pay scale for the 2025-26 academic year. They are hoping to clarify international travel policies with the appropriate offices.
- Graduate Honor System – Molly Ryan: The GHS continues to process cases of academic integrity and more recently, teaching-related concerns.
- University Libraries – Kiri Goldbeck DeBose: Upcoming seminars of interest include a 3-day activity-based workshop on Systematic Reviews and a 1-day workshop on conducting a Meta Analysis. More events from University Libraries can be found on the [website](#).
- Faculty Senate – Phil Nelson: A [Microsoft Form](#) is available for Faculty to report concerns about irregularities in classroom teaching, engagement in scholarship, or other activities.
- Undergraduate Student Senate: None at this time.
- Board of Visitors – Katie Gregg: None at this time.
- AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond: None at this time.
- Staff Senate – Kayla Robertson: CSPA is working on a bereavement leave resolution for staff.
- University Council: None at this time.
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Jill Sible: UCCGE, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for General Education, is in the process of reviewing five possible response actions and are proposing a step forward to revise the Pathway 7 concept. CUSP had two first readings at their recent meeting:
  - [CUSP 2025-26C](#): To update policy 6815 to align what is a common practice of not requiring students to be in physical residence in their final year to earn a Virginia Tech degree.
  - [CUSP 2025-26D](#): To revise PPM 107 to request that faculty provide an actual grade for midterms, instead of an S or U.

## 6. Presentation

- Priscilla Baker, Academic and Career Advisor in Biological Systems Engineering, and Heidi Gilbert, Assistant Director of the Office of Career and Professional Development, presented embedding career and professional development into graduate programs. The presentation included multiple initiatives and resources that CPD has to offer:
  - The Career Readiness Toolkit, which includes interactive modules that can be embedded into an existing Canvas course.
  - Ready-to-use modules, lectures, and in-class activities that can be customized based on time and course structure.
- Pooja Vilas Bhagawat, President of GPSS, presented on [graduate assistantship policies](#) and pain points that can arise surrounding expectations, agreements, and personal/sick leave for graduate students. Hearing multiple potential solutions, the commission will establish a working group to explore both the leave policy and expectation agreements to evaluate potential solutions.

## 7. Announcements

- Next meeting will be on December 3, 2025.

## 8. Adjournment

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