

## MINUTES

### Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

February 4, 2026

3:30 P.M.

Zoom

**Present** – Renée LeClair (presiding), Aaron Bond, Kiri Goldbeck DeBose, Nicole Holt, Ioannis Koutromanos, Veronica van Montfrans, Joshua Neal, Phil Nelson, Kayla Robertson, Kaylee South, Brian Strahm, Jill Sible, Aimée Surprenant, Tyler Walters, Jerald Walz, Meng Zhu,

**Absent with Notice:** Kwok Tsang

**Absent:** Kirk Cameron, Leslie LaConte, Kendyl Lewis, Cayce Myers, Molly Ryan

**Guests:** Janice Austin, John Chappell, Kevin Edgar, William Huckle, April Myers, Lauren Surface

Renée called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. 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 January 21, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 21 minutes.

#### 3. Unfinished Business

##### **Resolution CGPSP 2025-26B**

CGPSP 2025-26B, the resolution responding to the cancellation of the Graduate School's Inclusion and Diversity requirement due to exigent circumstances, had a first reading at University Council. The item generated no discussion at either Faculty Senate or University Council. A second reading at University Council is expected in the coming weeks; if approved, a working group will be formed to consider alternative approaches or additional recommendations.

##### **CFA Resolutions on Graduate Grievances and Sanctions**

Renée updated the commission on two CFA resolutions ([CFA 2025-26M](#) and [2025-26G](#)) revising Faculty Handbook language related to graduate and professional student grievances and faculty sanctions. One resolution adds a graduate and professional student grievance section to the Faculty Handbook, and the other revises the sanctions section to introduce minor sanctions between no action and a major sanction. Members were encouraged to review the language carefully, particularly the intentionally broad wording around “ongoing unprofessional behavior” and “minor sanctions,” and to share feedback.

#### 4. New Business

##### **Resolution CGPSP 2025-26C**

The draft resolution, [Resolution to Form a Working Group to Review Policy 6210](#), was developed with graduate student input, to create a working group to revise Policy 2610 and related policies on leave and assistantship expectations. The group would recommend minimum sick/parental leave allowances, consider additional leave categories, and refine a template for graduate

assistant duties, informed by UMI findings.

### **Draft Resolution – CGPSP 2025-26D Extending “Sundowning” Period for Untaught Courses (PPM 232)**

The DAP draft resolution looks to extend the period before untaught graduate courses are removed from the catalog from three to five years, aligning with the undergraduate policy.

### **Draft Resolution – CGPSP 2025-26E Graduate Academic Appeals Timeline**

The DAP draft resolution to add a filing deadline to the graduate academic appeals process, requiring appeals to be initiated within one semester of the semester grade being received. The resolution directs that this timeline be added to the Graduate Catalog’s appeals section.

### **Proposal – Resolution CGPSP 2025-26F on Retiring Graduate-Related PPMs**

Janice Austin, on behalf of the NTCO GS Committee, presented a resolution proposal to seek University Council Cabinet confirmation that CGPSP may sponsor a resolution to retire graduate-related Presidential Policy Memoranda. A mapping shows that their content already resides in the Graduate Catalog or other policy documents or has been superseded or revoked. The goal is to designate these existing sources as authoritative and retire redundant PPMs, without altering policy substance. The commission supported forwarding the proposal to the University Council Cabinet.

## **5. Reports**

- Aimée Surprenant – Graduate School: Dean Surprenant may appoint a standing committee for the appeals process. She plans to provide an end-of-semester summary of appeal volume and outcomes.
- Aimée Surprenant – Graduate School: There are four ongoing initiatives as a result of the Academic Affairs retreat: reimagining graduate curricula (including career and external experiences), realigning faculty-student expectations and rewards for mentorship, streamlining administrative processes where possible, and rethinking graduate funding and assistantships through fundraising and industry partnerships informed by the University Mission Initiative. These ideas will be brought to the commission as concrete proposals develop.
- Degrees and Academic Progress – Jerald Walz: Jerald noted that DAP will begin work on the graduate-related PPM mapping item and that previously endorsed resolutions continue through governance.
- NTCO GS Committee – Barbara Hoopes: None at this time.
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Joshua Neal: GPSS continues to review CGPSP resolutions to provide feedback.
- Graduate Honor System – Molly Ryan: No new report. Cases are continuing to be processed.
- University Libraries – Kiri Goldbeck DeBose: Upcoming workshops for graduate students include mixed-methods analysis, literature reviews, geospatial mapping, citation, and open access. Members are encouraged to promote these events to graduate students, and they can be found on their website’s [calendar of events](#).
- Faculty Senate – Phil Nelson: The University Strategic Plan is being updated and a feedback form is being circulated. Identity-based caucuses plan to discuss the discontinuation of identity-based graduation and achievement ceremonies.
- Board of Visitors – Katie Gregg: A special online Board of Visitors meeting on undergraduate housing is scheduled for February 5.
- AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond: None at this time.
- Staff Senate – Kayla Robertson: Nominations are open for the Macomas Staff Leadership Award and Staff Career Achievement Award.

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Jill Sible: CUSP approved elimination of the senior residency requirement and clarified that students may double major without receiving two separate degrees in the same area. CUSP also approved requiring actual midterm graduates instead of satisfactory/unsatisfactory marks ([CUSP 2025-26D](#)) and is reviewing a draft resolution to review the process for Pathways Concept 7 ([CUSP 2025-26A](#)).

## **6. Announcements**

- The 42nd Annual Graduate and Professional Student Senate Research Symposium will be held on March 25, 2026, in the Graduate Life Center, and faculty are needed to serve as judges for this year's event. [Judge Registration Form](#)
  - Volunteers are also needed to assist with registration, timekeeping, setup or breakdown, and food distribution. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt and meal if they assist around mealtimes. [Volunteer Sign-up Form](#)

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m.