

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

May 6, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Zoom

Present – Renée LeClair (presiding), Kiri Goldbeck DeBose, Nicole Holt, Ioannis Koutromanos, Cayce Myers, Joshua Neal, Phil Nelson, Molly Ryan, Kaylee South, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, Meng Zhu

Absent with Notice: Veronica van Montfrans, Jill Sible, Kayla Robertson

Absent: Aaron Bond, Kirk Cameron, Kendyl Lewis, Brian Strahm, Tyler Walters, Jerald Walz

Guests: Catherine Cotrupi, Kevin Edgar, Barbara Hoopes, William Huckle, Lauren Surface, Rachel Pitcher

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 minutes of April 15, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 15 minutes. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

Graduate List of Untaught Courses

Rachel Pitcher of the Office of the University Registrar presented the graduate untaught courses report, consistent with PPM 232. For the graduate level, 193 courses were identified as not having been taught in the past three years. Of those, 101 courses will be discontinued while 94 courses will remain in the catalog and are expected to be taught within the next academic year. A motion was made and seconded to approve the untaught courses report. Motion carried.

Items Carried Forward to Next Academic Year

The following items were noted as ongoing for the 2026-27 commission:

- Formation of a working group to review and modify Policy 6210 (assistantship policy). Faculty Senate is recruiting a faculty co-chair; Monika Gibson will serve as co-chair. GPSS has also issued a call for student participants.
- Curricular modifications as proposed in CGPSP 2025-26B, the exigent circumstances resolution.
- Review of action items from CGPSP 2024-25A, the resolution on unprofessional behaviors. Modifications to the faculty handbook have been made. The graduate student grievance procedure is being developed by Brian Hanson and Monika Gibson over the summer and will be brought to CGPSP in the fall.
- Acceptable of pass/fail graded courses for other programs.
- Change in the graduate grading scale.

4. Reports

- Graduate School Appeals – Aimée Surprenant: None at this time.
- Graduate School – Aimée Surprenant: Graduate Commencement is one week away, followed by a series of commencement events culminating in a Sunday ceremony in Northern Virginia hosted at GMU. Dean Surprenant also highlighted a recently published [article](#) by Dr. Cayce Myers on AI and cognitive performance among students.
- Degrees and Academic Progress – Jerald Walz: None at this time.
- NTCO Committee – Barbara Hoopes: The committee held its final meeting on April 21 with two guest speakers. Shelley Jobst from Continuing and Professional Education provided an overview of Virginia Tech's credit-by-contract partnership model, which allows VT to offer master's degree programs to employees of partner organizations. Student benefits include application fee waivers, tuition coverage, textbook provision, and concierge support. Dr. Kacy Lawrence, Director of Assessment and Strategic Data Initiatives in the Graduate School, presented an analysis of the G4 rejection code (no space available) for master's applicants over a five-year period. Using the G4 code in place of more specific rejection reasons makes it difficult to assess true program capacity and is not helpful to students. The Graduate School will work with individual programs on appropriate and consistent use of the code and redirection strategies.
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Joshua Neal: GPSS held its final meeting on April 30. Electoral results for the incoming board were confirmed; current senators continue to serve over the summer. The [GPSS Summer Travel Fund Program](#) application period is open and runs until May 18. GPSS submitted a letter to the Board of Visitors regarding the presidential search, consistent with the Faculty Senate statement.
- Graduate Honor System – Molly Ryan: Several new student panelists have joined the Honor System in recent weeks. Active cases are in progress, with more anticipated around exam week and continuing through the summer. A search for a new associate chair will begin in the fall. The Honor System continues to meet over the summer as needed.
- University Libraries – Kiri Goldbeck DeBose: A [Software Carpentries](#) training series is scheduled for May 26 for those seeking summer professional development. Additional opportunities are available on the [Library Events calendar](#).
- Faculty Senate – Phil Nelson: The Faculty Senate presidential search statement is posted on their website. A faculty and staff listening session is scheduled for Monday, May 11.
- Board of Visitors – Katie Gregg: Listening sessions are scheduled for the upcoming presidential search for student, faculty, and staff. More information can be found in the [VT news article](#).
- AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond: None at this time.
- Staff Senate – Kayla Robertson: None at this time.
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Jill Sible: At the recent meeting on April 27, CUSP members reviewed financial aid matters with John Lucas, with attention to potential negative impacts on graduate students from changes to federal student loan-borrowing limits. CUSP also discussed the cost of instructional materials not disclosed on syllabi, with suggestions including institutionally supported free alternatives and a working group to develop recommendations.

5. Announcements

- Jerald Walz was confirmed as the incoming chair of CGPS&P and a search will be conducted for a new chair of DAP. All commission members were thanked for their service and extended a special thanks to outgoing chair Renée LeClair.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 p.m. Motion carried.