

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

February 2, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

Present: Montasir Abbas, Coy Allen, Nancy Bodenhorn, Amanda Covey, Christina DiMarino, Joe Eifert, Marcia Feuerstein, Chip Frazier, Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Barbara Hoopes, Maruf Hoque, Kaitlyn Malewicz, Hannah Parks, Roan Parrish, Nathaniel Porter, Cliff Shaffer, Alina Valop, Scott Weimer, Pengtao Yue.

Absent with notification: Kayla Alward, Laura Belmonte, Aimée Surprenant (ex officio).

Absent without notification: Rebecca Pauly, Hannah Jane Upson, Tyler Walters (ex officio), Jordan Wescott.

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Lori Buchanan, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Cathy Grimes, Bryan Hanson, Bill Huckle, Jack Leff, Carrie Mayer, April Myers.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Feuerstein at 3:32p.m. A quorum was verified.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from December 1, 2021 were approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Allen reported that the GCC approved 12 courses and 1 certificate. The report for the January 27, 2022 meeting was presented for approval and a motion was made and seconded to approve the GCC report as presented.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dr. Edgar reported no appeals are pending.

Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria, and Academic Progress (DRSCAP) Committee

Dr. Hoopes reported DRSCAP has met twice since the last CGPS&P meeting. They continue to work on the Posthumous Degree policy and will be responding to recent comments received on the resolution. The GPSS Resolution A (taskforces and working groups) has been edited and will be coming to the commission at the next meeting. Nancy and Roan continue to work on resources for graduate students with disabilities; commission members are requested to review the google drive document and add feedback comments.

Old Business

No Old Business to discuss.

New Business

The Chair tabled discussion on CGPSP Resolution 2021-2022G Posthumous Degree Policy as DRSCAP is reviewing recent comments received before first reading.

The Chair opened discussion on GPSS Resolution 2021-2022O Resolution to Improve Communication to Graduate Students and Clarify Institutional Role. Mr. Leff shared that Dean Surprenant and Provost Clarke will be working on this to be internal process rather than a formal resolution. Mr. Leff recommended this resolution be tabled indefinitely and it will be withdrawn.

The Chair opened discussion on GPSS Resolution 2021-2022S Resolution to Abolish the Use of the GRE in Graduate Student Recruitment. Mr. Leff shared GPSS is looking forward to other campus bodies for review and comment. Discussion was had on the Graduate School's requirements for admission and restrictions placed on departments reviewing the application; Graduate School policy requires a 3.0 grade point average and TOEFL/IELTS minimums for admission. A guest suggested that Appendix 3 be modified to state (1) that the Dean of the Graduate School would grant exceptions to this policy, (2) the Director of Admissions & Academic Progress will work with DRSCAP to establish an exception request form and procedures, and (3) the last sentence regarding the SAT should be removed. It was clarified that a resolution from GPSS does require a Commission's approval to move forward in the governance process. A member shared they thought it is within the purview of this commission to help ensure that admissions procedures (including departmental choices) do not unfairly disadvantage groups of students and if individual departments aren't requiring it already, it shouldn't make a great deal of extra work for departments. Two members indicated they did not agree that a policy was needed for this issue. A student member clarified they wanted departments to justify why the GRE was to be used as one of their admission criteria. A guest recommended revising the title to "Resolution to Require Department Justification to Use the GRE in Graduate Admission Application Review".

Graduate School Updates

Dr. Edgar shared that Dean Surprenant approved a proposal to add BS/MEng option to the UGG program in Mining Engineering.

Dr. Bryan Hanson, Graduate Student Ombudsperson, shared his 2020-2021 annual report with the Commission.

Constituency Updates

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Mr. Leff reported he will co-present the Resolution for Establishing a Living Wage with Dean Surprenant for first reading at University Council on February 7, 2022. GPSS and Dean Surprenant

agreed DRSCAP will provide policy recommendations regarding contract clarification rather than forwarding this as a resolution. Additional work is being completed regarding students with contracts in departments outside their own major. Mr. Leff thanked Dean Surprenant for her work on childcare/family services.

Graduate Honor System

No report.

University Library Committee

Mr. Porter shared that this committee has not yet met this semester.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Abbas shared the Faculty Senate passed a [statement against targeted harassment](#). Provost Clarke extended flexibility for online course instruction. The University will be updating the COVID dashboard regarding severity of illness.

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report.

Board of Visitors Representative

No report.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council

Dr. Feuerstein reported University Council will meet on February 7, 2022.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

No report.

Commission on Student Affairs

No report.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Dr. Holloway indicated review of curriculum continues as well as understanding the new approach to Commencement.

Announcements

Ms. Covey shared the Employee Dependents Scholarships rely 100% on donations. VT Giving Day, which is coming up soon, is a great way to contribute to this Scholarship. Last year they had 22 applicants but were only able to raise \$6,000. 6 students were awarded \$1,000 each last year based on financial need and academic achievement. Please share widely to your groups!

The next Commission meeting will be February 16, 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Janice E. Austin
On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.
Dean for Graduate Education