

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

February 16, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

Present: Aimée Surprenant, Alina Valop, Barbara Hoopes, Christina DiMarino, Cliff Shaffer, Coy Allen, Hannah Parks, Jordan Westcott, Kait Malewicz, Kayla Award, Laura Belmonte, Marcia Feuerstein, Maruf Hoque, Montasir Abbas, Nathaniel Porter, Pengtao Yue, Rachel Holloway, Roan Parrish, Scott Weimer, Chip Frazier, Nancy Bodenhorn

Absent with notification: Hannah Upson

Absent without notification: Amanda Covey, Joseph Eifert, Rebecca Pauly, Tyler Walters (Ex Officio)

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Bill Huckle, Jack Leff, Carrie Mayer, Phillip Miskovic, April Myers, Kevin Boyle, Kevin Kish, Alice Fox

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Feuerstein at 3:31p.m. A quorum was verified.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from were approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee-Coy Allen

The committee met on February 10. Notes are uploaded if anyone would like to read them. Dr. Allen reported that the GCC approved 11 courses and 2 certificates.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dean Surprenant reported no appeals are pending.

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

Dr. Hoopes reported that the committee continues to meet every other week. The first reading of the Posthumous Degree Policy was provided to other commissions for advanced reading and feedback. It is part of new business to present.

Taskforce working group policy is coming along well. It will be presented for a first reading at the next meeting.

A resource page for graduate students with disabilities is in the works. Roan Parrish and Nancy Bodenhorn have been working on this. Representatives from other campuses have reviewed the draft that Roan put together to make sure their needs are represented. They are also working with the SSD and ADA offices to address accommodations that will support graduate students in their milestones.

Old Business

CGPSP Resolution 2021-22D (living wage) Revisions for University Council second reading
Title was changed from “living wage” to “Dynamically Increasing Assistantship Compensation.”
Dean Surprenant discussed and agreed upon changes for the resolution.

New Business

Dr. Hoopes brought forth the CGPSP Resolution 2021-22G (Posthumous Degree Policy). The reason behind the resolution is that Virginia Tech has not had a policy in place with specific procedures. Dr. Hoopes went through the policy and procedures. She pointed out that the in-memoriam citation is new. The policy was sent to various bodies across the university for comments. Those comments will accompany the policy as it is sent on for the first reading.

Kevin Boyle opened the discussion on the CUSP Resolution 2021-22H (Resolution to Establish the Department of Real Estate). This resolution is to formalize Real Estate as a department in the Pamplin College of Business. This will allow for the allocation of funds for faculty and academic programs. Currently, there is just an undergraduate program with plans for a graduate program in the future.

Graduate School Updates

Dean Surprenant updated that she has been meeting with students and deans and is enjoying those meetings. She is hoping to have the work-life balance grants extended to 8 weeks in the fall. There is support from the academic deans. She is working on a modification to co-op for graduate students and is inviting Monika and Roxanne to the March 16 meeting to go over their ideas for how to revise and make policies/procedures user friendly. Dean Surprenant spoke about the revision of the Faculty Handbook and the Graduate Program Director Handbook with best practices. There is a plan for a generic Student Handbook as well. She is working on strategies to increase external scholarships. She would like to think about ways to increase graduate student interest in entrepreneurial activities that are offered on campus so graduate students will take more advantage of them. Dean Surprenant started a weekly "Communication from the Dean" email that mimics what the Provost sends to the colleges.

Constituency Updates

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Jack Leff thanked Dean Surprenant for her excellent work on the communication front. He reported the GPSS has wrapped up elections. He reported they were a success. The leadership will transition shortly, and he is hoping for a more streamlined transition. There has been movement on other resolutions. Other commissions have heard the resolutions and they will go before university council early next fall.

Graduate Honor System

Kayla Alward reported that the fall 2021 semester had 9 cases; this semester there are 3 cases so far. Four cases are active at the moment. GHS took on an additional associate chair (a PhD student in the Geosciences Department) to help work through these pieces.

University Library Committee

No report

Faculty Senate

Dr. Abbas shared they are preparing a statement to send in response to the GRE resolution.

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report

Board of Visitors Representative

Phil Miskovic reported the BOV is currently recruiting. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 18. GPSS and Dean Surprenant are working on an idea starting to materialize. It's a working group entitled the Graduate Housing Working Group. Members of the group could include: GPSS from all campuses (Blacksburg, Roanoke, Northern Va), director of the local government and community relations in NRV, Dean Surprenant, Architecture school and Sustainable Housing, sexual violence task force, the Foundation, a representative from the real estate market in Blacksburg, and transportation representatives from each of the 3 major campuses. There will be four major focuses and potentially four subgroups.

1. Focus on-campus/graduate housing (Why are demands never exceeding supply at Donaldson Brown? What should on-campus housing look like? Should graduates and undergraduates be integrated together and if so, how would that look?)
2. Graduate housing specifically across all campuses
3. Additional resources that can be provided to graduate students

Phil will send out and get some feedback.

Nancy Bodenhorn asked if the group can look into housing options in Radford and if the Radford bus schedule could run in the morning as well, as there is only one in the afternoon. She suggested the Director of Community Relations be included too.

Dr. Edgar suggested to look at the task force survey from previous graduate students and to look at predatory landlords with a possible BBB style system. Town Governance may need to be involved as well.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council

Dr. Feuerstein reported that during the February 7 meeting, they heard reports from commission chairs and a few resolutions that passed the second reading. Under new business, Marcía presented resolutions to institute living wage for its first reading. It was returned to make revisions. She discussed Resolution 2122E GPSS constitution to move transition of leadership to spring.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

No report

Commission on Student Affairs

No report

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Dr. Holloway reported the commission looked at student learning outcomes for the Pathway General Education and the relationship of course-based assessment program-based assessment. They had a brief discussion on the UC resolution on shared governance.

Announcements

Dr. Bill Huckle announced two items that may be coming to the commission. One relates to the ongoing revision of 13010 policy (conflicts of interest/commitment). Graduate students' life is being removed from that policy. The second item is that IPHD is ready to present before commission by end of the semester.

The next Commission meeting will be March 2, 2022.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Mayer

On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.

Dean for Graduate Education