

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

March 2, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

Present: Coy Allen, Kayla Alward, Nancy Bodenhorn, Amanda Covey, Joseph Eifert, Marcía Feuerstein, Chip Frazier, Bob Hicok, Rachel Holloway, Maruf Hoque, Jack Leff (proxy for Alina Valop), Kait Malewicz, Hannah Parks, Roan Parrish, Cliff Shaffer, Aimée Surprenant, Hannah Upton, Scott Weimer, Jordan Westcott, Pengtao Yue

Absent with notification: Christina DiMarino, Barbara Hoopes, Alina Valop

Absent without notification: Montasir Abbas, Laura Belmonte, Nathaniel Porter, Tyler Walters (Ex Officio)

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Paul Emmons, Alice Fox, Bill Huckle, Cristen Jandreau, Kevin Kish, Carrie Mayer, Phillip Miskovic, April Myers

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

A request for a change in agenda was made. Jack Leff asked to defer the CGPSP Resolution 2021-22 F (GRE)-Resolution to Require Department Justification to Use the GRE in Graduate Admissions until the next CGPSP meeting in order to have more time to get the information the Faculty Senate requested. Marcía suggested removing it from Old Business. April recommended CGPSP to defer it.

CGPSP Resolution 2021-22 D (Equitable and Cost-of-Living Responsive Graduate Student Compensation) was returned from University Council for revision and added to the agenda under Old Business.

Revised agenda was adopted.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from February 16, 2022 were approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee-Coy Allen

The committee met on February 24. Dr. Allen reported that the GCC approved 9 courses and 3 certificates.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee-Dean Aimée Surprenant

Dean Surprenant reported no appeals are pending.

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

Dr. Edgar reported on the resolution of task force and policy. He stated it is important that stakeholder groups are represented on the task force by at least 25%. The task forces should operate by a consensus.

Old Business

A. CGPSP Resolution 2021-22 D (Equitable and Cost-of-Living Responsive Graduate Student Compensation)

Dean Surprenant recognized Alice Fox for her hard work on this resolution. A member questioned the wording regarding differentiating between all graduate students versus graduate students on assistantship; the member suggested making a friendly amendment for clarity.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

New Business

A. CGPSP Resolution 2021-22 C (Task Force Representation Policy)

A member stated this policy aids in the identification of people of expertise in the area. They wanted to know how the policy achieves that. Another member answered with the example: the campus accessibility working group had no identified disabled people on it and didn't consult with DAC during the formation or the process. By including stakeholders early on and explicitly, it

makes them a part of the process. It is a democratic norm to have those most affected leading the way on these items.

A member asked are each stakeholder portions (if there are additional stakeholders) meant to be 25% also? A member answered that it is not specified. It is not meant to be restrictive instructions, just a recommendation. It was determined there are no limits to stakeholder portions.

A member raised the concern of the first sentence of 2.0 which states that convening and charging of task forces and working groups is solely up to the discretion of the administration. The word "solely" could be removed so as not to injure the resolution.

Other member concerns: There are 2 classes of people on the task force, which means 1 has more rights than the other and this is not democratic and in opposition to the principles of shared governance. The language minimizes the other stakeholders.

A member has concerns that the policy is not internally consistent. It mentions having a consensus but then says it has to have 25% of the votes (with only the stake portion given these rights).

A member response to the concerns: It is simply important to have people in the room impacted by the policy when it is discussed. Another member asked what to do in the situation where there are multiple stakeholders. Who gets the 25%?

Another member stated that there could be an opportunity for a stakeholder to decline wanting to be a part of the task force. A member brought up that this resolution needs to be discussed more broadly. Because it is a policy, it needs to be treated as one and they recommended to take a look at it more. A decision was made to refer the resolution.

Graduate School Updates-Dean Aimée Surprenant

General Updates

Dean Surprenant began by acknowledging the war in the Ukraine which is an extra added stressor for everyone but particularly for students who have family or friends in or from the area. Both Byron Hughes, the Dean of Students, and Dean Surprenant reached out to Ukrainian and Russian students to share the resources for students who may be strongly affected by what is unfolding.

The dean continues to meet with students, programs, program directors, IGEPs, to hear about their challenges and opportunities and has been attending a variety of events, conferences, ceremonies etc.

Dean Surprenant congratulated Maruf Hoque who was recognized at the Aspire Awards by Student Affairs in the category of Aspiration to Practice Civility. Dr. Bing, the director of LGBTQ+ Resource Center, led a discussion on what civility means to her. She also talked about the Safe Zone program, which was created as a collaborative effort between the Dean of Students; HokiePRIDE of Virginia Tech; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Caucus (LGBT Caucus); and the Office for Equity and Access which is a fifteen-week personal and professional development opportunity available to faculty, staff, students, and community members regarding an array of LGBTQ+ topics. The program consists of three 5-week online intensive trainings with weekly readings, writings, and a live discussion lab.

It is open to anyone and the next sessions are:

April 4th - May 6th

Summer 1: May 16th - June 17th

Summer 1: June 27th - July 29th

The dean reminded everyone to refrain from sending emails that include personal information as it is not secure and to report violations to the Student Privacy officer. These violations are unintentional but, in addition to being illegal, such breaches can be very harmful to the individual whose privacy is breached.

The dean started a weekly update and is looking forward to feedback on content etc.

Giving day was a great success as the Graduate School raised \$26,610 from 134 donors.

Co-op discussion to come next meeting.

Policy 13010 changes-Christen Jandreau

Dr. Jandreau presented an overview of Policy 13010 draft revisions and changes that affect graduate students.

Constituency Updates

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Jack Leff reported a new board has been elected. They are in the process of finishing the Board of Visitors candidate selection processes.

Graduate Honor System

No updates

University Library Committee

No report

Faculty Senate

No report

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report

Board of Visitors Representative

No updates

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council

Dr. Feuerstein reported they met on February 22. They looked at Resolution 2021-22 D and it was deferred. Resolution 2021-22 E to change GPSS constitution was approved. In New Business, there is a resolution to revise system of shared governance and approve new University Council

constitution bylaws. There is also a resolution to rename the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

Janice Austin reported they are working through the resolutions that are coming through.

Commission on Student Affairs

Jack Leff reported they are working around fees and holding steady

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Dr. Holloway reported University Council will see new majors coming forward soon.

Announcements

No announcements

The next Commission meeting will be March 16, 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Mayer

On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.

Dean for Graduate Education