

CGPSP Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2021
3:30 – 5:00 pm

Present: Madlyn Frisard, Montasir Abbas, Barbara Hoopes, Coy Allen, Maruf Hoque, Robert Sumachrist, Nathaniel Porter, Hannah Parks, Pengtao Yue, Paul Emmons, Emily Burns, Nancy Bodenhorn, Chad Bolding, Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Karen DePauw (ex officio), Kayla Alward, Gabriela Carillo, Lujean Baab, Awad Abdelhalim, Richard Vari, Sabrina Sturgeon

Absent with Notification: Ashley Shew (on leave), Marcia Feuerstein

Absent without Notification: Lesa Hanlin, Cliff Shaffer, Hypatia Alexandria, Sara Hooshangi

Visitors and Invited Guests: Janice Austin, Bill Huckle, Kevin Edgar, April Myers

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm.

Members once again approved a motion to vote by objections and abstentions, assuming approval unless otherwise stated. This motion was made to accommodate the Zoom meeting format.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as-is

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from February 17, 2021 were approved as-is. A proposed revision by Lujean Baab was addressed during the CAPFA updates.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee – Bill Huckle

3 courses approved as-is (Summer 2021: ECON 6704; Fall 2021: BSE 5324, HIST 5194). Six courses approved pending minor revisions (Summer 2021: ECE 5224, STS 5404; Fall 2021: ME 6504, CEE 5510, CEE 5020, ENGL 5004). Effective catalog 2020-2021, the EdD/PhD degree in Career and Technical Education has been discontinued. Fall 2014 will be the last enrollment date, with Fall 2020 as the last year to graduate.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee – Karen DePauw

No updates at this time

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

DRSCAP has completed the draft on Principles of Doctoral Residency. See New Business for details.

Old Business

iPhD Proposal: Sahra Svensson

2nd reading and vote

Approved.

iPhD Proposal: Caroline Connell

2nd reading and vote

Approved.

Dean DePauw would like to remind the commission that proposal votes do not need to be unanimous. The commission's feedback and questions are appreciated, and have proven to be useful not only to the students developing proposals, but to the faculty involved as well as to the Graduate School as a whole.

Resolution to Discontinue Degree: Doctor of Education (EdD) / Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Career and Technical Education (EDCT)

The resolution was lightly modified from "degrees" to "degree", as the program is one degree, with two pathways. There are currently 4 students in the program, who have been given a teach-out option, or the option to transition to an EDCI (Curriculum and Instruction) degree with a concentration in Career and Technical Education.

The resolution was approved.

New Business

Principles of Doctoral Residency - Barbara Hoopes

1st reading

DRSCAP has developed the draft resolution to adjust the requirements of doctoral residency, which previously depended heavily on time spent in Blacksburg. Revised requirements focus on the goals of residency, including:

- Disciplinary Depth and Breadth
- Scholarly Immersion
- Professional Socialization
- Professional Practice

The proposal allows for greater flexibility within departments and programs, and no longer contains geographic requirements. The principles remain the same, although the practical application is more open to interpretation.

Once the draft resolution is approved, the catalog will be updated. This resolution will not go to governance.

Graduate Student Assembly Diversity Subcommittee Report - Maruf Hoque and Emily Burns

The GSA Diversity Subcommittee has been reviewing and discussing several publications and resources to form recommendations for bettering diversity and inclusion at Virginia Tech. Materials reviewed include the Graduate School by the numbers web page, the Graduate Education task Force Report, climate surveys, enrollment data, and the publication, "The VT Difference: An Inclusive Process". GSA also conducted an interview with the Assistant Dean and Director of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion, Shernita Lee.

They were able to identify 3 recommendations, with steps to action (listed below).

1. Improve transparency regarding the recruitment efforts towards URM (Under-Represented Minority) students.
 - a. Recruit for a percentage by college. Currently, certain programs are underrepresented.
 - b. Publicly share the recruitment process, including fund allocation
 - c. For a Coalition for Next Generation Professionals, using the current Life Sciences coalition as a model for other disciplines.
2. Secure additional funding for URM students
 - a. Hire full-time AP Faculty/Staff to focus solely on recruitment. Current roles cover both recruitment and retention.
 - b. Allocate funds to recruit students from developing countries who face greater barriers in meeting application fees and other costs
 - c. Implement grant-writing courses regularly within departments, hosted by the Graduate School
3. Improve support of services and experiences available to URM students
 - a. Develop a mentorship program
 - b. Cluster hire URM candidates in departments, Cook Counseling Center, and Schiffert Health Center so students have representation and support from URM students.
 - c. Create and implement concrete policies and contracts between students and advisors or departments related to their dissertation. URM students report less support from advisors regarding their dissertation.
 - d. Develop department-specific writing centers to supplement the lack of support from advisors.

Discussion clarified several of the recommendations and how they were developed. The GSA was also given guidance on next steps, and places in which some of their recommendations are already being addressed.

Graduate School Updates

- The last full week of March is Graduate Education Week. The Graduate School will be hosting virtual gatherings for students and alumni. There will not be the traditional banquet, but award recipients will be celebrated in some way. Students who have received the award for outstanding dissertations have already been notified.
- Please visit the page for Graduate School funded fellowships:
<https://graduateschool.vt.edu/funding/types-of-funding/funding-sponsored-by-the-graduate-school.html>
- There are two new fellowships being offered this year, including the Kirk & Noel Schulz Transformative Graduate Education Fellowship and the Dr. Aunt Peg Fellowship. Deadlines for these fellowships have been extended.
- Commencement for Spring 2021 has been announced, and will once again be a virtual ceremony for all students. If possible, there are still tentative plans in development to offer small in-person celebrations for individual departments or programs, including a small celebration for students in Northern Virginia.

A later discussion circled back to candidacy status, with the following comment from Awad Abdelhalim:

"Tomorrow marks the 2-year anniversary of the approval of CGPSP 2018-19D by University Council and it is yet to be implemented. We have been hearing that it will finally go in front of the BOV this March with a significantly reduced discount. I believe the funds the candidacy status saves departments and PIs would allow addressing the taskforce recommendations, especially in terms of recruitment and retention. Unfortunately, it seems that the university has decided to look at this strictly from a balance-sheet perspective, and I hope this commission sees it to ensure that once passed by the BOV the candidacy status is implemented to function as it was envisioned and approved to be."

Candidacy status will go before the BOV for approval this month. As a reminder, students will be able to claim the financial benefit of candidacy status for 2 years, with flexibility during a 3 year period. During this time, students may claim full-time status for the price of 3 credit hours. If non-dissertation hours need to be added, the student will have to "hop out" of candidacy status for that semester. For the first year of this roll-out, students will only be offered 10-15% tuition assistance (the discount Awad has mentioned above), with an eventual transition up to the full 66% tuition assistance outlined in the proposal. There is no current plan for what this transition will look like. There is a team currently working on these details and implementation.

Constituency Updates

Graduate Student Assembly – Maruf Hoque

GSA is continuing their constitution updates, which is tied into the ongoing shared governance proposal and changes. There was a brief discussion on shared governance implementation, and the implications for commissions and the governing bodies they report to. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Graduate Student Honor System – Kayla Alward

There is currently one active case.

University Library Committee – Nathaniel Porter

No update

Faculty Senate - Montasir Abbas

No update

Student Government Association – No Representative

Board of Visitors – Sabrina Sturgeon

The BOV is currently interviewing candidates to replace Sabrina. There is also a focus group that will be discussing tuition rates.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council - The resolutions for the School of Environmental Security and the MS Biomedical Technology, Development, and Management had first reading.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Lujean Baab

University Council approved the Joint Resolution to Revise Shared Governance (known as CFA 2020-21C and CAPFA 2020-21B) regarding the Commission on Faculty Affairs, CAPFA, the Commission on Staff Policies & Affairs, and the Commission on Student Affairs. The resolution will now go before President Sands and the BOV. This approval initiates a restructuring in shared governance to include the establishment of the Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate.

Commission on Student Affairs

No updates

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Rachel Holloway

CUSP has been working on developing Destination Areas, and needs graduate input before moving forward.

Announcements and Discussion

A Posthumous Degree subcommittee has been formed, including Madlyn Frisard and several other members of CGPSP. Rick Sparks was nominated to serve as chair. Their first meeting will take place on Friday.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Kehr

On behalf of Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D.

Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies