

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

March 16, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

Present: Montasir Abbas, Coy Allen, Kayla Alward, Laura Belmonte, Nancy Bodenhorn, Christina DiMarino, Joseph Eifert, Robert Emmett (proxy for Amanda Covey), Marcía Feuerstein, Chip Frazier, Alice Fox (proxy for Kait Melewicz), Bob Hicok, Rachel Holloway, Barbara Hoopes, Maruf Hoque, Hannah Parks, Roan Parrish, Cliff Shaffer, Aimée Surprenant, Alina Valop, Scott Weimer, Jordan Westcott, Pengtao Yue

Absent with notification: Amanda Covey, Kait Malewicz, Nathaniel Porter

Absent without notification: Rebecca Pauly, Hannah Upson, Tyler Walters (Ex Officio)

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Lori Buchanan, Kevin Edgar, Monika Gibson, Cathy Grimes, Bill Huckle, Kevin Kish, Jack Leff, Carrie Mayer, Phillip Miskovic, April Myers, Lauren Surface, Roxanne Winfield

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Feuerstein at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was verified.

Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was adopted.

Approval of the Minutes

A question was raised regarding whether Resolution 2021-22 C (Task Force Representation Policy) was up for a second reading. A member reminded that it was referred until April 6th. The minutes have been corrected.

The minutes from March 2, 2022 were approved as corrected.

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. The report from the March 2nd meeting and this meeting was approved.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee-Dean Aimée Surprenant

Dean Surprenant reported no appeals are pending.

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

No new report

Old Business

A. CGPSP Resolution 2021-22 G Resolution to Create a Policy for the Award of Posthumous Degrees- Barbara Hoopes (1st reading 2/16--request for comments 2/22)

Dr. Hoopes reported the resolution was approved and ready for the second reading. There were no additional comments.

B. Resolution 2021-22 F (GRE)-Jack Leff (deferred from previous meeting)

Alice Fox reported that the feedback for change came from most faculty and A/P faculty. They did not want the GRE abolished. The main change was for a change in language. The GRE is now opt-in. Alice noted that in the "therefore be it resolved" section that there is a joint commission between CGPSP and a commission on equity and diversity that will review the opt-in applications that detail that admissions processes and are supported by evidence and are non-discriminatory and contribute to them successfully recruiting graduate students who are high performing. The joint commission will work to alleviate the financial burden of the GRE on prospective students. It was left open-ended on how this will be achieved.

Dean Surprenant reported that the Graduate School has worked on holistic admissions. The Graduate School Staff investigated the use of holistic admissions, looked at the process, and made changes with all units involved. There was discussion regarding equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. She proposed to open a community-wide discussion to look at data and talk about ways to improve admissions processes. The discussions will be ways to evaluate admissions without bias.

A member asked was there a reason that the LSTATS and GMAT was left out and the focus was on GRE instead? Jack answered there was more data on equity and disparity connected with the GRE.

There was a motion to approve the revised resolution.

Dean Surprenant moved to table the motion indefinitely to work on a consultative process.

Motion passed; one person abstained

CGPSP Resolution 2021-22D (Equitable and Cost-of-Living)

Alice reported that the Provost's changes were tracked and accepted.

New Business

Graduate School Updates-Dean Aimée Surprenant

General Updates

Dean Surprenant encouraged folks to reach out to Bryan Hanson, Ombudsperson, at any time for consultations.

Modification to the Co-Op for Graduate students-Monika Gibson and Roxanne Winfield

Roxanne and Monika presented slides on the modification to the Co-Op system for graduate students. There was some discussion that followed that included: what is the definition of a job? Do NGO's fall under the Co-Op? Roxanne explained that the job definition is more geared towards immigration and those interested can look at CPT online.

International students have to be continuously enrolled--it's not required to pay tuition when on Co-Op. A member asked if this would take away students' health insurance. Monika responded that students can purchase VT insurance if they are on a Co-Op but not an insurance subsidy because it's tied to an assistantship.

Constituency Updates

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Jack Leff reported they have been pushing the living wage resolution and reviewing others. He reminded members of the research symposium next week. They are working on transitioning new officers and beginning to look at affordable housing working groups.

Graduate Honor System

No updates

University Library Committee

No report

Faculty Senate

No report

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report

Board of Visitors Representative

Next Tuesday, the board will have a workshop for public comments for tuition and fees.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council

No updates

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

No updates

Commission on Student Affairs

Jack Leff reported they are meeting on March 17 to talk about 4 new resolutions. They are also wanting to collaborate with undergraduate students via a shared sub-committee.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Dr. Holloway reported the Academic Relief Policy is being discussed as is the resolution to make Juneteenth a no-class holiday.

Announcements

The next Commission meeting will be April 6, 2022.

Dean Surprenant announced an over 30s event that was taking place the evening of March 16 at the GLC.

Christina DiMarino thanked the graduate students for working hard on the resolutions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Mayer

On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.

Dean for Graduate Education