

## MINUTES

### **Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies**

April 20, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

**Present:** Montasir Abbas, Coy Allen, Kayla Alward, Janice Austin (proxy for Amanda Covey), Nancy Bodenhorn, Christina DiMarino, Marcía Feuerstein, Chip Frazier, Barbara Hoopes, Maruf Hoque, Roan Parrish, Nathaniel Porter, Aimée Surprenant, Hannah Upson, Alina Valop, Pengtao Yue

**Absent with notification:** Amanda Covey, Joe Eifert, Bob Hicok, Rachel Holloway, Scott Weimer

**Absent without notification:** Laura Belmonte, Kait Malewicz, Hannah Parks, Rebecca Pauly, Cliff Shaffer, Tyler Walters (Ex Officio), Jordan Westcott

**Visitors and invited guests:** Kevin Edgar, Paul Emmons, Monika Gibson, Cathy Grimes, Bill Huckle, Jack Leff, Carrie Mayer, Phillip Miskovic

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Feuerstein at 3:31 p.m. There was no quorum yet, so Dean Surprenant gave her graduate school report.

The dean was at Christopher Newport University for a Graduate Deans meeting at the beginning of the week. The deans present agreed to bring some issues to the Virginia State Legislature rationalizing policies, such as tuition remission and assistantships.

The Resolution for graduate student composition is approved by the BOV and is awaiting the Provost's approval of membership.

There is a summer workshop in the works: Future Professoriate Latin America Summer Program. More details to come.

Topic of holistic admissions was brought forth. There is a group at USC in California discussing how to make graduate school more accessible. There are workshops available potentially this

summer. Topics include: systematic change designed for equity and strategies for equity-based holistic reviews.

The dean suggested starting the conversation within CGPSP and see what is needed. A member asked would departments be forced to use these strategies or is it strongly recommended. The dean responded that the point is to convince them that it will be helpful and beneficial. It was suggested to get the Provost's office and the School of Education involved in the process.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes from April 6, 2022 were approved.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Graduate Curriculum Committee-Coy Allen

The committee met on April 14. Dr. Allen reported that the GCC approved 2 certificates and 4 new courses. The last meeting of the year will be on April 28 and there are 11 courses to close out the year. A motion was made and seconded to approve the GCC report. The motion carried.

#### Graduate Student Appeals Committee-

No appeals pending.

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

DRSCAP met on April 13 and focused on ongoing efforts. The SSD and ADA offices met to work out details for the webpage to provide information on services. The page is almost ready to post. The graduate school will take the final step of getting cleared by the legal office before posting. The graduate directors and coordinators list will be given access. There is hope of a scenario of graduate student accommodations to be included in the doctoral student mentor workshop. A survey to instructors will be sent to graduate student instructors soon. The final meeting will be April 27.

### **Old Business**

### **A. Second reading of Joanna Culligan IPhD proposal--William Huckle**

Dr Huckle reported that Ms Culligan made changes addressing comments and suggestions. A motion was made and seconded to accept these changes and approve Ms Culligan's IPhD program proposal. The motion carried.

### **B. CGPSP Resolution 2021-22C Resolution to Establish a University Policy Governing Stakeholder Representation on Task Forces and Working Groups--Marcía Feuerstein**

Dr Feuerstein reported that there were a number of questions from the University Council regarding the appropriateness of the task force to create this type of specific policy and the issue of stakeholders. There was also a short deadline to revise the resolution to everyone's satisfaction. However, an alternative approach, proposed by Kim O'Rourke, was to turn the resolution into a set of guidelines that would be posted on policies.vt.edu website under resources and that could be shared periodically with the President's Council (consisting of all the deans, VPs, major institute directors, and a few others). Kim would ensure that this happens. Jack Leff and Alice Fox agreed to work with Kim O'Rourke on these guidelines.

A motion was made and seconded to withdraw the CGPSP Resolution 2021-22C Resolution to Establish a University Policy Governing Stakeholder Representation on Task Forces and Working Groups from the University Council. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### **A. CGPSP changes via the PSG (President's Committee on Governance) revision to Shared Governance--Montasir Abbas**

Dr Abbas reported that Shared Governance started in 2015. Senates are out of commissions, committees, and UC progress of resolutions. Change will include senates in process to be in line. Every senate will have at least 1 commission under them. The numbers for University Council will go from 81 to 56. The next chair of the CGPSP will be appointed by the Faculty Senate at a later date. The GCC will be resolving. GS Affairs will be a new commission. CGPSA and CUSP will have a joint subcommittee to work on student-wide issues. Jack Leff proposed a subcommittee to streamline workflow and get input early and often. This is not time sensitive. The UC cabinet and senate leadership and SG model will need to get feedback from everyone.

#### **B. Graduate 3-Year Untaught Course Report--William Huckle**

Dr. Huckle asked for a motion to accept the shared report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the shared report. The motion carried.

## **Constituency Updates-Marcía Feuerstein**

### Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Jack Leff reported they are wrapping up the year. The new board will run the last meeting. They are finishing up the last campaigns and allocating funds.

### Graduate Honor System

Kayla Alward shared slides with a breakdown of referred charges, case outcomes, dismissed versus responsible. She shared that 55% involve international students. There are 7 cases total: 3 are active and open. A member asked if there is a training for students to understand academic integrity. Students are given resources by the GHS Chair at the graduate student orientation. They learn about types of violations. Kayla said it can be more effective in a smaller setting. It would be helpful if more departments were engaged. One member was concerned about students getting dismissed from school. Since 2016 154/158 cases did not have students dismissed from the university. There are more educative penalties versus punitive. It was suggested that a Canvas link may be helpful. Dean Surprenant reminded members to report any suspicion of plagiarism or cheating rather than trying to take it on yourself. There are pdf links each college receives with information to help students regarding plagiarism. Dr. Edgar reported there is also ethics training within the GTA workshop.

### University Library Committee

ULC met in March. Nathaniel Porter gave an open access fund update. The library collaborative research grant is now accepting applications for the summer cycle. He spoke about the Affordable Reusable Open Textbook Initiative.

### Faculty Senate

A reminder how working together can bring forth positive results.

### Undergraduate Student Senate

Hannah Upson reported they are wrapping up the year and continuing to grow and get student interest.

#### Board of Visitors Representative

No Update

#### **University Council and Commission Updates**

##### University Council-Marcía Feuerstein

Reported that there were 5 unfinished business resolutions brought forward and 13 new business resolutions. Two of those were brought forth by CGPSP, including the posthumous degree resolution.

##### Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

Next meeting will be in September

##### Commission on Student Affairs

Talked about a proposed subcommittee

##### Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

No updates

#### **Announcements**

Janice Austin reminded members of the graduate school Commencement on Wednesday, May 11 at 3:30 p.m. in Lane Stadium. The DC Area Commencement is Sunday, May 15 at 1:00.

The final Commission meeting will be May 4, 2022.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Mayer

On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.

Dean for Graduate Education