

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

November 3, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

Present: Montasir Abbas, Coy Allen, Nancy Bodenhorn, Amanda Covey, Christina DiMarino, Joe Eifert, Marcia Feuerstein, Chip Frazier, Barbara Hoopes, Maruf Hoque, Jack Leff, Kaitlyn Malewicz, Hannah Parks, Roan Parrish, Nathaniel Porter, Cliff Shaffer, Ashley Shew, Aimée Surprenant (ex officio), Hannah Jane Upson, Alina Valop, Scott Weimer, Jordan Wescott, Pengtao Yue.

Absent with notification: Rachel Holloway (ex officio), Robert Sumichrast.

Absent without notification: Eleni Laskaridou, Richard Vari, Tyler Walters (ex officio).

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Paul Emmons, Monika Gibson, Cathy Grimes, Bill Huckle, Kevin Kish, Phillip Miskovic, April Myers.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Feuerstein at 3:33p.m. A quorum was verified.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of October 20, 2021 were approved electronically.

Committee Reports

President's Committee on Governance

Dr. Bob Hicok will report at the next CGPS&P meeting.

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Huckle reported that the GCC approved 5 new and revised proposals for the Spring 2022, 10 new and revised proposals for the Fall 2022, one (1) revised degree, one (1) new certificate and two (2) discontinued certificates during the October 28, 2021 meeting. The report for the October 28, 2021 meeting was presented for approval and a motion was made and seconded to approve the GCC report as presented.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dean Surprenant reported no appeals are pending.

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

Dr. Hoopes reported DRSCAP met last week and continue their work on resources for students with disabilities academic milestone success as well as English proficiency requirements. Dr. Hoopes presented a Resolution to Create a Process for Posthumous Degree Awarding Policy for first reading today; the resolution will now be shared with the Senates for comment.

Old Business

GPSS Resolution 2021-22H: *Resolution to Clarify and Expand Parental Leave Policies, Childcare Services, and Family Insurance Plans* was sent to the Senates for comment.

New Business

No new business items.

Graduate School Updates

Dean Surprenant shared that 60% of program Inclusion and Diversity plans are in; the submission deadline is Nov 23. The Dean will be in touch with departments yet to submit to see if they need any help.

A grant proposal for Little Hokie Hangout Child Care Stabilization has been submitted that, if approved, would provide \$5,600/quarter for the next three quarters for our program and are working with the universities Child Care Committee to expand access.

The Graduate School is working on fall commencement plans; we will have student speakers rather than a keynote.

Graduate Education Task force: A new website has been published for grad students; the website contains links to information about a wide range of opportunities for student-initiated resources. It also contains comprehensive information about VT workshop and course resources to help students learn to write successful proposals. Discussions between OVPRI and the Grad School are ongoing about establishing adequate funds to bridge between the support available to the student from the funding agency, and the average compensation for grad students in a particular program. The principle is not to punish the students with the ambition and talent to succeed in getting such proposals awarded, but at least to make them whole, and ideally provide some modest incentives.

Dean Surprenant is working with OSP leadership on enhancing Office of Sponsored Programs support to faculty preparing research funding proposals. Collaboration between Graduate School and OVPRI to continue in conversations this fall.

The Dean is gathering data on increasing the minimum assistantship stipend rate to match the minimum rates of Virginia Tech's aspirational peers. She will share with colleges to get their input.

Dean Surprenant is beginning discussions regarding enrollment—met with 2 colleges today and have scheduled meetings with all the rest. We're looking for advice regarding faculty capacity to advise graduate students (faculty-student ratio) and potential growth areas identified by the academic colleges and interdisciplinary programs.

The Graduate School has provided funding for a workshop on January 10-11, 2022 for a train-the-trainer exercise, advancing the execution of this recommendation. Faculty from the College of Engineering, who have experience with this mentorship program and have delivered to multiple Engineering assistant professor cohorts, will be doing the training. We are asking each college to

send to this training those who will deliver the mentorship workshop within their college. We would suggest a minimum of two trainers (and a maximum of 4) per college. The intention is that these trainers would initiate mentorship training within your college during 2022.

Dean Surprenant and the University administration support the Graduate and Professional student's rights to express their views. Harassment and threats to students will not be tolerated.

Constituency Updates

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Mr. Leff reported GPSS approved Resolutions N1-N3 at the last Senate meeting. Additional resolutions will be coming to CGPS&P at additional upcoming meetings. Mr. Leff thanked Dean Surprenant for her statement of support today. Little Hokie Hand Me Down event is November 9-10. The travel fund program is open for applications now.

Graduate Honor System

No report.

University Library Committee

No report.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Abbas shared Faculty Senate discussed the tenure/tenure track faculty approved for graduate committee service. The Faculty Senate is also working on a statement supporting students targeted for harassment.

Undergraduate Student Senate

Ms. Upson reported the USS Inauguration will be held tonight.

Board of Visitors Representative

Mr. Miskovic reported that the BOV will meet this coming Sunday and Monday and he encourages everyone to come out and observe.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council

Dr. Feuerstein reported that Dr. Dan Sui presented at the last meeting on the AAU and VT aspirational goals.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

No report.

Commission on Student Affairs

No report.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

No report.

Announcements

No announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Janice E. Austin

On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.

Dean for Graduate Education