

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

December 1, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

238 GLC and Zoom

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

Absent with notification:

Absent without notification: Laura Belmonte, Ashley Shew, Richard Vari.

Visitors and invited guests: Janice Austin, Emily Burns, Kevin Edgar, Alice Fox, Monika Gibson, Ariel Heminger, Maruf Hoque, Bill Huckle, Kevin Kish, Damien P. Williams, Shernita Lee, Phil Miskovic, April Myers, Mychala Snead, Benjamin Unruh.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Feuerstein at 3:34p.m. A quorum was verified.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of November 17, 2021 and November 22, 2021 were approved.

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee

Dr. Allen reported the GCC will meet again in January 2022.

Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Dean Surprenant reported no appeals are pending.

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

Dr. Hoopes reported DRSCAP has not met since the last Commission meeting.

Old Business

The Chair opened discussion on GPSS Resolution 2021-22A (CGPSP Resolution 2021-22C) Resolution to Establish a University Policy Governing Task Forces and Working Groups for second reading. Responses to this resolution from the Senates were posted in the Sharepoint site. Mr. Leff motioned to approve the resolution, Dr. Surprenant seconded. Mr. Leff further motioned to move this resolution to an ad hoc committee for revisions, Dr. Surprenant seconded, the motioned passed and the resolution will be sent to an ad hoc committee for revisions.

The Chair opened discussion on GPSS Resolution 2021-22E (CGPSP Resolution 2021-22E) Resolution to Change Constitution to Move Transition of Leadership to Spring for second reading. Mr. Leff motioned to approved the resolution, Ms. Alward seconded. Mr. Leff motioned to amend the resolution to change the resolution wording from "elections shall be held at the last meeting of fall" to "elections shall be held within the first three meetings of spring semester", Dr. Bodenhorn seconded, and the motion to amend passed. The motion to approve the resolution as amended was passed.

The Chair opened discussion on GPSS Resolution 2021-22H (CGPSP Resolution 2021-22F) Resolution to Clarify and Expand Parental Leave Policies, Childcare Services, and Family Insurance Plans for second reading. Mr. Leff motioned to approved the resolution, Ms. Parrish seconded. The Chair noted the A/P Faculty Senate and the Staff Senate did not support the resolution as presented. Mr. Porter motioned to amend the resolution to remove reference to "and staff and AP Faculty" in the Now Therefore Be It Resolved paragraph in response to Staff Senate regarding authority to govern staff affairs; seconded by Mr. Leff; the motion to amend was approved. One member commented they were supportive of proactively addressing these issues but it is incredibly complex and cannot support as is currently addressed in the resolution. A GPSS member indicated they were willing to make revisions. Dean Surprenant agreed that these are very complex issues and she is committed to working with the College Deans to consider ways to expand the current work-life grant from six to eight weeks. A student guest noted eight weeks should be the minimum as NIH and NSF offer eight weeks. A member recommend the Commission not approve the motion to

approve this resolution and address administratively rather than through a resolution. The motion to approve the resolution was not passed.

New Business

The Chair opened discussion on establishing an ad hoc committee to review and revise resolutions. A member stated it is critical that there are mechanisms in place for diverse representation and stakeholder participation on ad hoc committee. A guest noted that DRSCAP can help in this review and was supported by a member. A member stated an ad hoc committee can do their work between first and second readings which was supported by another member. A member noted DRSCAP may already have a full agenda; another member indicated this can be a priority for DRSCAP. A member suggested DRSCAP should have resolution in advance of Commission first reading. Not all resolutions will need to be sent to DRSCAP. Another member indicated it will be hard to predict in advance what may need DRSCAP review and not. Discussion could be held at first reading and then DRSCAP work on the wording before second reading. A member raised the question on how to determine if go to DRSCAP or not. A guest recommended that if the issues addressed in the resolution are complicated or possibly controversial, then the resolution should be sent to DRSCAP. Consensus of the Commission members was reached that DRSCAP would be used for review of and revisions to resolutions before the Commission.

Graduate School Updates

Dean Surprenant shared she is working with the College Deans to explore possible options to expand the work-life grants from six to eight weeks. The Dean is also working on establishing a group to address increasing assistantship funding. Dean Surprenant is also focusing on Northern Virginia campus concerns including the transportation survey that recently closed, identifying solutions for student metro passes, and identifying solutions/partnerships to address student housing accommodations and living expenses in the NCR area.

Dr. Shernita Lee shared an update on Inclusion and Diversity Implementation and Academic Unit Plans.

Constituency Updates

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Mr. Leff reported additional resolutions are moving through the Senate. Most GPSS events for the fall are now completed and the Senate is beginning to focus now on elections and Research Symposium in the spring.

Graduate Honor System

Ms. Alward reported two active honor system cases. Two cases have been resolved. Additional faculty have signed up to be panelists but more can always be used.

University Library Committee

No report.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Abbas shared the Faculty Senate will meet this Friday.

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report.

Board of Visitors Representative

The BOV met a month ago and Mr. Miskovic shared the report he presented to the BOV with the Commission.

University Council and Commission Updates

University Council

Dr. Feuerstein reported University Council met on November 15, 2021 with first readings on several resolutions.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

No report.

Commission on Student Affairs

No report.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Last meeting was November 8, 2021. The committees reporting to the Commission are

Announcements

Dr. Austin announced fall 2021 commencement will be held in Cassel Coliseum at 2:30pm on Friday, December 17, 2021.

The next Commission meeting will be February 2, 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Janice E. Austin
On behalf of Aimée Surprenant, Ph.D.
Dean for Graduate Education