
Absent: Zo Amani, David Bieri (with notice), Richard Blythe, Conrad Briles, Caed Cunningham, Michael Friedlander, Guru Gosh, Brian Huddleston, John Ferris, Samantha Fried, Eric Kaufman (with notice), Chris Lawrence, Jeannie Layton-Dudding, Teresa Lyons, Mary Marchant (with notice), Caycee Myers, Erin Poff, Adil Sageer, Glenda Scales, Robert Sebek, Madlynne Tanner, Lisa Wilkes (with notice)

Guests: Andrew Alston, Kai Baisden, Jason Chavez, Kevin Edgar, Ron Fricker, Nathalie Groot, Mae Hey, Rachel Holloway, Josh Leidy, Alex Mazarr, Scot Nachlis, Duston Scarborough, Rick Sparks, Sarah Woodward

President Sands called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 3, 2018

Dr. Sands noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (http://www.governance.vt.edu).

3. Old Business

Commission on Student Affairs
Resolution CSA 2018-19A
Resolution to Change the Membership of the Commission on Student Affairs

Mr. John Livingston presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
Resolution UASBP 2018-19A
Resolution to Change the Membership of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
Mr. Dwight Shelton presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

4. **New Business**

**Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity**
Resolution CEOE 2018-19A
Resolution to Observe Indigenous People’s Day at Virginia Tech

Ms. Kimberley Homer presented the resolution for first reading. Upon approval, “Indigenous People’s Day” will officially and permanently be added to the University Event Calendar to be observed every year on the 2nd Monday in October. The University will also support the development and distribution of culturally appropriate educational materials about Indigenous People’s Day to faculty, staff, and students, as well as the Commonwealth. Ms. Veronica Scott, Vice President of the Graduate Student Assembly, noted that GSA is fully in support of the resolution. Mr. Jason Chavez, a representative of Native@VT, also thanked the Council for its consideration and support of this resolution. The statement of support from GSA, as well as any feedback from the other three constituent groups, will be appended to the resolution and become part of University Council’s permanent record, in accordance with the UC By-laws.

5. **Reports from Commission Chairs**

1. Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Ms. Monika Lawless, Chair
   a. Completing the new AP Faculty Grievance Submission Form that was revised last semester, with new version posted on Provost’s Website.
   b. Evaluating feasibility of creating and utilizing an AP Faculty listserv in an effort to increase CAPFA awareness.

2. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Ms. Kimberley Homer, Chair
   a. Intending to move beyond the boundaries of redemption of imperialism, recognizing the contributions of indigenous people, slaves, and immigrants, and, with support of the Office of Inclusion and Diversity, creating a safe space for their stories to be told, heard, and remembered.

3. Commission on Faculty Affairs – Mr. Jack Finney for Bob Hickok, Chair
   a. Focusing on four changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution.
   b. Finalizing the edits of the Faculty Handbook, specifically the section regarding Promotion and Tenure.

4. Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies – Dr. Rajesh Bagchi, Chair
   a. Re-naming the Commission and Graduate Student Assembly to “Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies” and “Graduate and Professional Student Assembly” in an effort to embrace MD and DVM students.
   b. Considering new status for senior PhD students that reduces enrollment while maintaining full-time status.
   c. Exploring the use of National Academies’ report that defines “outcomes” for Master’s and Doctoral degrees.
   d. Considering expansion of graduate and post-baccalaureate education including badges, certificates, IGEP, etc., and how to increase enrollment.
e. Considering a digital PhD portfolio, expanding beyond the dissertation.

5. Commission on Outreach and International Affairs – Dr. Urs Buehlmann, Chair
   a. Working to build a scholarship for Study Abroad Programs that compares with peer institutions.
   b. Working to build a database of Virginia Tech global activities.

6. Commission on Research – Ms. Ginny Pannabecker, Chair
   a. Continuing to work on policy 13005: Centers and Institutes to establish governance and oversight, and to reflect university changes in interdisciplinary approaches, such as Destination Areas and Strategic Growth Areas.
   b. Continuing to work on draft policy for Faculty Open Access requiring all faculty to make their published work available and providing a method to do so.
   c. Creating a committee to look into current resources, services, and processes related to research at Virginia Tech and how it is managed and shared.

7. Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – Ms. Tammie Smith, Chair
   a. Reviewing staff and wage benefits available for lower pay bands, as well as retirement package options and insurance rates.
   b. Working to increase recruitment, retention, and training by developing career and professional development pathways for staff, increasing participation in university governance, and improving training for supervisors.
   c. Working with the Employee Benefits Committee regarding the winter closing discussion and possible solutions to concerns brought forth regarding leave.

8. Commission on Student Affairs – Mr. John Livingston, Chair
   a. Looking at Student Budget Board appropriations for University Chartered Student Organizations.
   b. Reviewing changes to 8000 level policies on space reservations.
   c. Reviewing University Chartered Student Organizations’ Constitution changes.
   d. Looking into student representation in media.
   e. Looking into the bias reporting policy with Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.

9. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Dr. Mary Kasarda, Chair
   a. Academic Policies Committee is working on establishing policy and procedures for medical withdrawal.
   b. Academic Support Committee is proposing the academic calendars through 2025.
   c. Studying and Formulating policy changes and additions to support Destination Areas, Strategic Growth Areas, Strategic Enrollment Management, and the Pathways to General Education.
   d. Working with Dean Walters of the University Libraries to create guidelines for open education resources, with a draft set of guidelines currently under review.

10. Commission on University Support – Dr. Jonathan Bradley, Chair
    a. Reviewing the IT Software Procurement policy and procedure in conjunction with the Commission on Research in an effort to make it more efficient.
    b. Receiving a presentation about gym facilities and their offerings for faculty and staff members.
6. **Announcement of acceptance and posting of Commission Minutes**

Dr. Sands noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web (http://www.governance.vt.edu). Note that the purpose of including Commission minutes on the agenda is to accept them for filing. University Council By-laws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
  November 14, 2018

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
  November 16, 2018
  November 30, 2018

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
  November 7, 2018

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
  December 13, 2018

- Commission on Research
  May 9, 2018
  September 12, 2018
  October 10, 2018
  November 14, 2018

- Commission on University Support
  September 20, 2018
  October 18, 2018

7. **Presentation**

Dr. Karen DePauw provided an update from the Graduate School (presentation attached).

8. **Announcements**

Ms. Rachel Iwicki announced that applications are open for the 2019-20 Student Representatives to the Board of Visitors, and requested that council members encourage their students to apply.

Mr. Anurag Mantha, Chair of the Graduate Honor System, announced that they are always looking for faculty and student participants and requested that Deans let their faculty know.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:59 p.m.
Graduate education at Virginia Tech: Programs, priorities & aspirations

Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D.
Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education
Professor, Department of Sociology and
Department of Human, Nutrition, Foods & Exercise

University Council February 4, 2019
Primary reasons you are seeking a graduate degree
Why did you select Virginia Tech?
What concerns you about being in graduate school?
Virginia Tech: global land grant university

teaching/learning
research/discovery
service/engagement
graduate students are critical to:

teaching/learning
research/discovery
service/engagement
• 50+ graduate certificates
• ~170 Master’s and Doctoral degrees in academic disciplines and interdisciplinary:
  • PhD
  • EdD
  • Master of Arts and Master of Science
  • MACIS, MEng, MArch, MFA, MNR, MAEd, MBA, MPIA, MPH, MIT, MLA, MURPL, MF
• virtual, hybrid, executive format, F2F

Professional degrees - DVM, MD

Post baccalaureate education at VT
Throughout the Commonwealth

50th anniversary in northern VA - April 2018
VT Graduate School: unique and innovative

transforming graduate education through initiatives and programs
• compliment and expand upon traditional academic training in the disciplines
• interdisciplinary graduate education
• create affirming, inclusive graduate community
• career development and ‘success critical skills’ development (e.g., future professoriate, career professional)
Transformative Graduate Education (TGE)

Preparation for Future Professoriate (PFP)
- Career Professional (PFPro)
- Teaching/Learning, Academy for GTA Excellence
- Citizen Scholar Engagement (CSE) Citizen Scholars

Knowledge Leadership

Scholarly Inquiry
Social Responsibility

Technology, inclusion & diversity, interdisciplinary, ethics, & global

DePauw 2003 (rev 2017)
Graduate Courses & Certificates

- Preparing the Future Professoriate (3)*
- PFP: Global Perspectives (3)
- GTA Workshop (1)
- Contemporary Pedagogy (3)*
- Library Research Skills (1)
- Interdisciplinary Research in Science & Engineering (1-3)
- Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research (2)

- Citizen Scholar Seminar (3)
- Preparing Future Career Professional (3)
- Industrial Professional in Science & Engineering (3)
- Diversity & inclusion for a global society (3)
- Communicating Science (2)
- International Research (3)
- Interdisciplinary Research & Graduate Education (3)
Certificates

- Future Professoriate graduate certificate
- Inclusion and diversity certificate (Fall ’19)
- Career professional (in development)
Transformative Graduate Education (TGE): GRAD courses

• 1/3 of graduate students participate in TGE
• Total number of students enrolled - 1279 through Spring ’18 (excl GTA workshop - 900+ annually)
• 684 enrolled in Future Professoriate graduate certificate
• 609 earned graduate certificate
• 169 Global Perspectives Programs (GPP) participants
Q27: How well prepared do you feel for whatever you are doing next in your career or academic pursuits?

- 75% of students who indicated they participated in any TGE initiatives feel extremely well, or very well prepared
- 79% of students who indicated they received the PFP certificate feel extremely well, or very well prepared
- 68% of students who indicated they did not participate in any TGE initiatives feel extremely well, or very well prepared
- Students who participated in the PFP Certificate felt the most well prepared
Preparing the future professoriate: Global perspectives program (GPP)

Since 2006 13 + 4 programs (Switzerland, Chile, Ecuador)
160+ participants
7 summits at Swiss Embassy
7+ web published manuals
**Discuss Pedagogy**

The VT Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence serves as a community hub for graduate students who are interested in teaching to connect with each other as well as faculty, staff, and other campus resources.

**Pedagogy Resource Repository**

The VT Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence hosts a wealth of pedagogical resources that may help one improve their teaching.

**Service Work**

The VT Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence provides service to the campus and broader community by providing some human, technical, and other resources in support of teaching and improving one's pedagogy.

**Research and Funding**

This blog post is in part processing a few research thoughts and working on research statements for my Feminist Research Methods course. Last week was Grad Ed Week at Tech. Part of what that brought...
Communicating Science

Graduate students share their experiences with Communicating Science classes in the short video below.
Citizen Scholar Engagement

application of knowledge for a global society
Virginia Tech Interdisciplinary Graduate Education
informative and engaging dialogues
14 IGEPs
~325 students
~270 faculty

iPhD = 7+
Recruiting and graduating the leaders of tomorrow

Diversity Scholars Program

Diversity Scholars are graduate students who specialize in and advocate for the awareness, knowledge and skills associated with diversity and inclusion in the Graduate School and community. The goal of the Diversity Scholars Program is to create dialogue, provide advocacy, and implement change for a more diverse and inclusive experience for all graduate students, faculty, staff, and administration. The Scholars do this in many forms such as influencing curriculum or research agendas, providing leadership and educational tools for effective communication and multicultural competencies, and implementing programing aimed at increasing awareness of global and social justice issues.

www.graduateschool.vt.edu/diversity

Funding Opportunities

Various forms of funding are available to students and academic departments to support the recruitment and retention of top candidates. The Graduate School’s Dean Diversity Assistantships are given to faculty-nominated students who demonstrate strong academic abilities and are underrepresented in their field. These are two-year assistantships with one year of funding provided by the Graduate School and year two funding provided by the department.

Students are encouraged to take GRAD 5214: Diversity and Inclusion for a Global Society as well as participate in campus activities which promote diversity and inclusion. Students are nominated for this program and are offered a modest compensation upon completion. Diversity Scholars are expected to mentor future Diversity Scholars and continue participation in the program to graduation.
Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society

The Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society commemorates the first African American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university (Physics, Yale University, 1876). Virginia Tech chartered a chapter in 2014, which will be inducted at the April 2015 ceremony at Yale University. We join a group of elite doctoral-granting institutions, including founding institutions Yale and Howard University. We were granted a charter because of our outstanding track record of training scholars traditionally underrepresented in the academy.

Invited to join in 2014, one of 16+ universities
6-7 graduate student members inducted each year
President Sands recognized in 2016
Graduate School Inclusion & diversity initiatives

Holistic admission
Inclusive GLC - Health & wellness in Rm G
Inclusion and Diversity requirement
Creating affirming environments
Disrupting Academic Bullying
Climate survey
Post admissions services survey
Work life grants
Holistic admissions

“…from an inclusive perspective rather than exclusion process. At Virginia Tech we consider many aspects of the student during the admissions process. You are more than your grades, GRE score, or where you went to school. We also take the following into consideration:

- Your community involvement/service
- Leadership
- Social, economic, physical, and other barriers
- Your personal/professional ethics
- What you have achieved
- Your research and scholarship”
Ethics Commons
A space for conversation and reflection on graduate life

VT Ethics Mandate
Disrupting Academic Bullying

To maintain a culture of civility throughout the graduate education experience, academic bullying is unacceptable and should not be tolerated.
Little Hokie™ Hangout: Cooperative Play Group

Little Hokie™ Hangout is a parent-run cooperative playgroup for children between

Babysitter Clearinghouse

The Graduate School's Babysitter Clearinghouse is a frequently updated list of qualified babysitters

Parent Support Group

Graduate students who are juggling family and their academic work meet monthly to discuss issues, connect with other parents, and
2018 Graduate Enrollment at a Glance

Please use the tabs at the top to explore graduate school enrollment data and view 10-year trends.

6370 Graduate students enrolled

3414 Master’s students 2956 Doctoral students

70% Blacksburg Campus

12% Underrepresented Minority Students

31% International students from 103 countries

15% Extended Campuses

Top 5 Countries:
- China
- India
- Iran
- South Korea
- Bangladesh

15% Virtual Campus
Challenges & opportunities

- increase recruitment and offers
- accelerated programs (e.g., VSU, Hollins)
- multiple year offers (GTA, GRA)
- overall compensation plan
- increase students funded on grants (GRAs) and fellowships
- “candidacy status”
- capacity - faculty: graduate student ratio
Aspirations for graduate education at VT

- Graduate education presence and opportunities in the National Capital region (including Innovation Campus) and throughout the Commonwealth and global
- Interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary graduate education programs and opportunities (IGEP 2.0)
- Responsive and innovative portfolio of post baccalaureate programs, micro-credentials, degrees, certificates and more to meet societal needs
Aspirations for graduate education

• Expand and enhance transformative graduate education (TGE) initiative with focus on preparing graduate students with necessary KSA (knowledge, skills, abilities) for 21st century life and work, focus on teaching/learning, ethics, inclusion, global and more
• Inclusive and affirming diverse global graduate education community
• Increasing the ratio of graduate/undergraduate student to achieve a more robust research intensive context
...it would be wise to acknowledge and understand the current and future challenges facing this system and take steps now to ensure that it remains vital, adaptable, and relevant for many generations to come. To neglect graduate education, or to ignore threats to its success, puts the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the nation at risk. (p. 19, 2018)
a space and place for graduate education