## Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies Resolution Affirming Administration Action Under Exigent Circumstances CGPSP 2025-26B

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet First Reading by Commission	September 8, 2025 October 15, 2025
Approval by Commission	Date
First Reading by Senate	October 24, 2025
Approval by Senate	Date
Staff Senate Comment	Date
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	Date
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	Date
First Reading, University Council	Date
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Effective Date	Upon Approval or Date

WHEREAS, legal and compliance risks arising from new federal regulatory requirements coupled with the Board of Visitors' DEI resolution passed on March 25, 2025, created an exigent circumstance requiring the university leadership to act quickly to eliminate or adjust a number of university programs and services, including some changes to academic programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech's "Principles of Shared Governance" incorporated in the University Council Constitution and Bylaws state, in part: "...[I]n the rare instances exigent circumstances require university leaders to act outside the structure of shared governance, they will explain the exigent circumstances and discuss the action or actions taken in open forums and in a timely manner..."; and

**WHEREAS**, to honor and fulfill those principles, President Sands informed University Council Cabinet of university action taken to repeal CGPSP 2017-18A Resolution to Incorporate an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Graduate Education and PPM 307 in their entirety; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 8, 2025, University Council Cabinet approved a motion to affirm the administration's decision to repeal CGPSP 2017-18A and PPM 307, and the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies and Faculty Senate recommend that University Council do the same; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that University Council affirms the administration's decision to repeal CGPSP 2017-18A Resolution to Incorporate an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Graduate Education and PPM 307 in their entirety; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** CGPSP reaffirms the Principles of Community and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University as an institution that highly values diversity, including diversity of thought and experience, and fosters an inclusive environment, encouraging a culture of opportunity for all, which immensely enriches our campus, and is committed to providing every student an education that is free from discrimination and grounded in merit; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** graduate programs, policies, practices, and actions in every regard comply with the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal civil rights laws. This includes, but is not limited to: admissions, hiring, promotion, compensation, financial aid, scholarships, prizes, administrative support, discipline, housing, graduation ceremonies, and all other aspects of student, academic, and campus life.



## AP Faculty Senate Comments on CGPSP 2025-26B Resolution Affirming Administrative Action Under Exigent Circumstances October 17, 2025

The A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorses the CGPSP 2025-26B Resolution Affirming Administrative Action Under Exigent Circumstances.

Although the resolution received majority approval and endorsement from the A/P Faculty Senators, we are providing all submitted comments for your awareness and thoughtful consideration. A formal response to these remarks is not required:

I do not recall A/P Faculty Senate being consulted or informed that the exigent circumstances clause was in effect when decisions were made relevant to this language of this resolution. Therefore, to affirm ex post facto an action that is now communicated as due to necessity strikes me as redundant. I see no necessity to this Resolution, apart from a public affirmation of the authority already vested in the university's leadership structure to make decisions in exigent circumstances as its sees fit for the good of the university.

I do not think this decision benefits our community and that it was done in haste. This is reactionary and constituencies were not given the chance to respond before the decision was made.