

**CGPSP Minutes**  
**March 20, 2024**  
**3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**Graduate Life Center Room 238/Zoom**

**Present:** Monty Abbas (presiding), Coy Allen, Lisa Becksford, Nancy Bradley, Zai Cook, Christina DiMarino, Joe Eifert, Rob Emmett, Paul Emmons, Chip Frazier, Charly Hartle, Rachel Holloway, Sattar Mansi, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, Tyler Walters, Jerald Walz, and Scott Weimer

**Absent with Notice:** Carolyn Commer, Mary Kasarda, Renee LeClair

**Absent:** Tom Ewing, Rose McGroarty, Tarisa Ross, Katelyn Steide

**Guests:** Janice Austin, Matt Baker, Cathy Grimes, Barbara Hoopes, Bill Huckle, Xiaoyan Ma, Rachel Maizel, John Matson, Carrie Mayer, April Myers, Lauren Surface, Sarah Swilley-Sanchez

Monty called the meeting to order at 3:33. There was an establishment of a quorum.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda was approved and adopted.

**2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 21, 2024**

Minutes were approved.

**3. New Business-**

o **Request for a dual diploma with Maastricht University (The Netherlands)---Sarah Swilley-Sanchez**

\*Double doctorate definition: a doctoral degree trajectory in which the doctoral candidate obtains the doctoral degree on the basis of one single thesis at the university and one or more foreign institutes of scientific education and where, after a successful completion of the doctoral degree research, the university, as well as the other institute(s) each individually issue a certificate.

Explanation: "This means a joint doctorate, leading to two diplomas. I think that would be the only solution, now that a joint doctorate with one diploma is not possible. If we choose for this option, a public defense at our university is mandatory. If this is the same at VT, it means that you have to do two public defenses. If we draft the agreement, we will describe the academic process, taking into account the regulations of both universities."

\*A member mentioned not compromising the aspects of the VT degree.

\*No credit transfers

\*Can't use a single ETD to earn a dual degree

\*This is an individual case

\*Moving forward this would be a case-by-case basis

\*Commission approved agreement for the student at hand. Motion passed.

o **Discussion on revising language regarding regionally accredited institutions for admissions---  
Janice Austin**

\*A reminder that the document with more information is in Share Point.

\*Other schools in Virginia have done this and VT needs to consider in order to be able to accept students from other states, such as Florida.

\*Question: Is there an efficient way to keep track of this? Janice responded that there is internal tracking.

\*Motion to revise the language. Motion passed.

- o **Discussion on course enrollment requirements for the Accelerated Master's Programs---Monty Abbas**

\*From the Graduate School website:

[https://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/accelerated\\_masters\\_programs.html](https://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/accelerated_masters_programs.html)

\*Some students don't realize the option is available.

\*There was brief discussion. Some points include:

- Pros/cons of keeping as is

- Courses counted as transfer credits

- Must meet criteria: graduate letter course, grade, accredited university

- 3.3> UG GPA to be accelerated student or 3.0> for masters student

- Not counting a course as accelerated prevents student from bringing the course into their program

- Look at criteria for difference in accelerated masters as UG versus masters student

- If these classes count as graduate level, students are cutting short their UG education

\*There was a call for a deeper discussion of this topic. A working group was formed:

- \*\*Monty Abbas (chair)

- \*\*Rachel Holloway

- \*\*Nancy Bradley

- \*\*Rob Emmett

#### **4. Acceptance and Posting of Committee Reports and/or Minutes**

- **Graduate Student Appeals Committee-** Aimée Surprenant

None

- **DAP-** Coy Allen

Some items the committee is working on:

1. fees/tuition for off campus students (fact sheet to help)

2. online courses for online students (modes of instruction)

3. policies for non-thesis (Ad Hoc committee is also working on this)

4. support IOR working group

5. improving mentorship

6. task force on graduate education

7. terminate outdated graduate certificate programs

- **Ad Hoc Masters-**Barbara Hoopes

\*All documents are in Share Point

1. Committee composition change is a policy change. Typically, the GPD serves as the person who checks off on coursework only-they give the advice of an advisor. This is more for students' final exams.

2. ESS Scheduling—this is a process change.

3. Transcript language—unofficial vs. official

Question: What do you do if a student can't get a transcript from a country in turmoil? The dean will look at these on a case-by-case basis.

\*\*This was a second reading for these requests. There are 2 policy changes and 1 procedure change. The committee would like to get approval to pilot this summer and implement in the fall.

\*\*\*\*Motion passed.

- **Graduate School Updates**-Aimée Surprenant

\*Medical insurance billing/students can opt into a payment plan/put in Bursar's bill/very helpful for those not on assistantships

\*Graduate Education Week Update- March 25-29

\*Rachel Maizel has been working on climate surveys for 7 different departments. The results are in and will be shared at University Council.

- **Constituency Updates**-Monty Abbas

**a. Graduate and Professional Student Senate**—Rachel Maizel

\*Reported on the climate surveys

\*1<sup>st</sup> reading of Resolution CGPSA 23-24A will have its first reading at the April 1<sup>st</sup> University Council meeting.

**b. Graduate Student Honor System**—Rose McGroarty

No report

**c. University Library Committee**—Lisa Becksford

No update

**d. Faculty Senate**—Carolyn Commer and Jerald Walz

\*new global distinction initiative and feedback

\*submission of census of faculty

**e. Undergraduate Student Senate**—Karl Rice

No update

**f. Board of Visitors**—Emily Tirrell

No update

**g. AP Faculty Senate**—Rob Emmett

No update

- **University Council and Commission Updates**—Monty Abbas

**a. University Council** –Monty Abbas

\* passed minor revisions

**b. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**—Rachel Holloway

No update

**5. Adjournment**- Monty Abbas

\*Dr. Huckle announced that there are 3-4 IPhD proposals that may be on the agenda in April.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:41.

