

CGPSA- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
February 7, 2023
3:30-5:00
GLC Conference Room 238
<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85958241361>

Meeting ID: 859 5824 1361

Present: Alice Fox, Aimée Surprenant, Carrie Mayer, Kayla Alward, Janice Austin, John Barbish, Arthur Ball, Anna Buhle, Caroline de Jager, Stephen Kleiber, Lee Learman, Jack Leff, Lauren Panny, Mark Sikes, Sally Shupe, Lauren Surface, Nick Whitesell, Kenneth Wong

Absent with Notice:

Absent: Mollie Coogan, Tyler Walters

Guests: Ben Beiter, Sophie Drew, Krista Liguouri, Margaret Nagai-Singer

Alice called the meeting to order at 3:31. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes

Alice made a motion that minutes from the December 6 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

2. Member Reports

a. Graduate School Updates—Dean Surprenant

- *The new semester is going well. Student engagement is high.
- *There are currently 6998 graduate students. Applications are up this semester.
- *There will be a training/orientation for new Graduate Program Directors being held on February 10.
- *Nominations for GS fellowships are open. Students can ask to be nominated.
- *iThenticate license is expiring. There is a survey asking for feedback that is available.
- *GPSS Research Symposium-call for abstracts
- *Grad Stipend Task Force report will be submitted to the dean and provost soon.
- *There is a new working group for thesis formatting guidelines.

b. Faculty Senate Update—None

c. UGSS-no report

d. GPSS-Ben Beiter

- *CUSA is forming a joint subcommittee to look at student fee allocation policy that will be approved through the senate.
- *Students would like to see the final Grad Stipend Task Force Report.
- *Vote of no confidence was given on the SVCC.
- *Housing survey is in the works but is not quite published yet.
- *Health insurance survey is out as well.
- *GPSS constitution and bylaws update
- *conference travel funding is available

New Dean of Students, Mark Sikes, was introduced and asked the commission to introduce themselves to him.

3. New Business

- **First Reading: CGPSA 2022-23A (Resolution to Expand Access to Reproductive Care at Virginia Tech)**

*Some questions asked by members:

**Does student health insurance cover this? No

**Has Schiffert given a reason why they do not offer these services? Not all reasons are known, but one concern is what happens if there are side effects and Schiffert is not open.

**How can we ensure that all VT campuses can be served by this resolution? Roanoke has closer access than NVC. Some clinics in Roanoke are coordinating with Schiffert.

*Schiffert now offers non-hormonal IUDs since the resolution was written.

*A member suggested expanding on what already exists. Dean Learman suggested to list all services that access should include, even if some are currently provided:

WPSI recommends that adolescent and adult women have access to the full range of contraceptives and contraceptive care to prevent unintended pregnancies and improve birth outcomes. Contraceptive care includes screening, education, counseling, and provision of contraceptives (including in the immediate postpartum period).**** Contraceptive care also includes follow-up care (e.g., management, evaluation and changes, including the removal, continuation, and discontinuation of contraceptives).

WPSI recommends that the full range of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)- approved, -granted, or -cleared contraceptives, effective family planning practices, and sterilization procedures be available as part of contraceptive care.

The full range of contraceptives includes those currently listed in the FDA's Birth Control Guide****: (1) sterilization surgery for women, (2) implantable rods, (3) copper intrauterine devices, (4) intrauterine devices with progestin (all durations and doses), (5) injectable contraception.

*After discussion, an amendment to include the above and more was decided on. It will go to GPSS and then back to this commission.

*In the "whereas" section, a member suggested using a reference here so it's a formal list of resources.

*Here are some helpful links from the chat:

https://healthcenter.vt.edu/ourservices/womens_clinic.html

<https://www.hrsa.gov/womens-guidelines>

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/07/28/hhs-dol-treasury-issue-guidance-regarding-birth-control-coverage.html>

5. Announcements

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 7.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:40.