

CGPSA- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
December 13, 2023
3:30-5:00
GLC Conference Room 238 or Zoom

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85740318770>

Meeting ID: 857 4031 8770

Present: Adams, Randal; Austin, Janice; De Jager, Caroline; Gazar, Amir; Hefny, Mohamed; Hoopes, Barbara; Ortiz, Gonzalo; Saint-Preux, Carlos; Shupe, Sally; Surface, Lauren; Surprenant, Aimée; Sydnor, Shaka; Towsif, Sami

Absent with Notice: Learman, Lee

Absent: Breighner, Atlas; Hearne, Lindy; Holloway, Kendall; Kinnaman, Alex; Mieses, Cassidy; Thomas, Eric; Walters, Tyler

Guests: Myers, April

Randal called the meeting to order at 3:31.

1. Adoption of Agenda-Randal Adams

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

2. Adoption of Minutes from November 8, 2023-Randal Adams

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes. The motion carried.

3. Member Reports

a. Graduate School Updates—Dean Surprenant

*There is now a Mentor Resource page on the website that is for graduate students and faculty.

*The dean would like to know when students apply for grants/fellowships.

*Graduate School application is holistic. Prospective students can use the space to demonstrate their accomplishments.

*Many fellowship applications are open.

*The dean sent GPDs an email to encourage faculty to give graduate students a proper break.

b. Senate Updates-

***GPSS-Randal Adams**

*Survey regarding the ombuds was sent to students.

*The climate and culture survey has been extended.

*Working on how to improve non-Blacksburg community students.

*Regarding the caste system policy that is being revised, the dean would like to engage the community with the most knowledge before putting it into governance.

***Faculty/Senate-Alex Kinnaman**

*None

***Administrative and Professional Senate- Gonzalo Ortiz**

*None

***Staff Senate-Sally Shupe**

*None

***USS-**

*None

4. General Orders/Discussion Topics-Ranald Adams

- Discussion for plans for next semester:

*more perspectives from students outside the Blacksburg area

*AREC community (put on agenda in spring)

*NVC students (Barbara Hoopes will coordinate)

*TBMH Roanoke (Caroline de Jager will coordinate)

5. Announcements-

*Lauren Surface shared links for Graduate Student Awards and Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards. Both can be found here: <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/about/awards/student.html> and <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/about/awards/outstanding-mentor-award.html>.

6. Adjournment-

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:49.