

CGPSA- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
April 10, 2024
3:30-5:00
GLC Conference Room 238 or Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 857 4031 8770

Present: Adams, Ranald; Austin, Janice; De Jager, Caroline; Hearne, Lindy (proxy sent); Hoopes, Barbara; Kinnaman, Alex; Learman, Lee; Mieses, Cassidy; Ortiz, Gonzalo; Rice, Karl; Saint-Preux, Carlos; Shupe, Sally; Surface, Lauren; Surprenant, Aimée; Sydnor, Shaka; Towsif, Sami

Absent with Notice: Gazar, Amir; Thomas, Eric

Absent: Hefny, Mohamed; Holloway, Kendall; Walters, Tyler

Guests: Jackson, Jordan; Myers, April

Ranald called the meeting to order at 3:32.

1. Adoption of Agenda-Ranald Adams

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

2. Adoption of Minutes from March 13, 2024-Ranald Adams

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 13, 2024 minutes. The motion carried.

3. Member Reports

a. Graduate School Updates—Dean Surprenant

1. Graduate Education Week was a success. The dean thanked those who helped out. The GPSS Symposium and awards reception went well.

2. The work/life balance grant has been extended from 6 weeks to 8 weeks, effective now.

3. Pregnant Workers Fairness Act: please see information here: <https://news.vt.edu/notices/2023/06/oea-pregnant-workers-fairness-act.html>

4. Billing changes: <https://news.vt.edu/notices/smi-billingchanges.html>

5. The Board of Visitors voted to approve a 2.9% tuition raise and a 3.85 raise on comprehensive fees.

b. Senate Updates-

***GPSS-Ranald Adams**

*Executive Board elections were held. The position of Director of Events is not filled.

*GSBB (Graduate Student Budget Board) is working on updating the budget board policy.

***Faculty/Senate-Alex Kinnaman**

*Statement on Palestine was brought for endorsement. There will be a straw poll by department and college. They are looking at a more humanitarian statement. This is the same statement the Grad Senate endorsed.

*It's not a policy; it's an expression. Because of this, it doesn't have to move through governance.

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

*None

***Staff Senate-Sally Shupe**

*None

***USS-Karl Rice**

*A statement regarding Palestine and Israel was requested.

4. General Orders/Discussion Topics-Ranald Adams

- Look at current resolutions in governance—Dean Surprenant

*The current resolutions in governance are posted in Share Point. The dean shared them to see if any discussion is needed from this commission before moving on in the process. None needed extra discussion, but others will be shared at future meetings.

- Discussion on CGPSA in collaboration with other commissions and place in governance—Dean Surprenant

*It's up to the commission to make connections with others.

- Work plan for next semester—Ranald Adams

*Creating an AI working group (Dean Surprenant was asked for grad students to serve on this) (GPSS is a better venue to pull from)

*The dean will form a working group to look at the results from the climate survey and form an action plan of students/faculty/staff.

*Services for non-Blacksburg students

5. Announcements-

*The new Board of Visitors graduate student representative is William Poland, a Masters in Electrical Engineering student.

6. Adjournment-

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:57.