

Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
February 12th, 2025
Zoom

Present: Rachel Maizel, Janice Austin, Jiayuan Dong, Barbara Hoopes, Alex Kinnaman, Beatrice Kyeremateng, Lee Learman, Charlotte Nyblade, Gonzalo Ortiz, Rohsaan Settle, Sally Shupe, Brenda Stanfill, Lauren Surface, Aimee Surprenant, Shaka Sydnor

Absent: Camille Block, Merly Konathapally, Mark Sikes, Tyler Walters

Guests: Catherine Cotrupi, Lori Rose

1. Adoption of Agenda – Rachel Maizel

The agenda was approved and adopted.

2. Adoption of Minutes from December 11th, 2024

Minutes were approved.

The meeting began at 3:31pm. The quorum was met.

3. New Business

- Second reading of [CGPSA 2024-25A](#): Resolution to Expand CGPSA Membership to Graduate Students from Extended Campuses
 - o Comments and editing suggestions have been gathered from GPSS, AP Faculty Senate, and other stakeholders.
 - o Barbara Hoopes noted that online students do not have a seat reserved only for them. The consensus was to have two representatives from D.C. Grad Assembly and the Roanoke Grad Assembly. The online representation can be brought up at another time. The motion to approve the resolution as it stands after these edits was carried by all who were in attendance.
- [CGPSA 2024-25B](#) Resolution to Clarify Intimate Relationships Regarding Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Students

4. Member Reports

a. Graduate School Updates:

- The Graduate School is working with everyone to manage the executive orders and guidance from the federal government. Dean Surprenant has been communicating with students via Friday weekly message to graduate students to provide clarity.
- GTA and GA funding can be considered secure.

- Inclusion & Diversity requirement: Due to a directive from the Provost, we have temporarily paused the I&D requirement. A temporary waiver of that requirement is available for any program whose activities might contradict guidance we have received from Executive Orders or from the Department of Education. We are reviewing the requirement and will be making some changes in consultation with CGPS&P.
- Graduate School leadership has been working to put together lists of activities and workshops on demand that are readily available to programs. These can be found here: <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/student-services/on-demand-workshops.html>

b. Senate Updates

GPSS – Lauren Surface

- None to report.

Faculty Senate – Alex Kinnaman

- Resolution to Establish a Discussion Forum Under the Purview of Faculty Senate
- CFA 2024-25F: Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook to Include a Statement on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom.
<https://governance.vt.edu/ResolutionTracker/StatusDetails/529>

AP Faculty Senate – Janice Austin

- Currently reviewing the faculty handbook grievance process.

USS

- Nothing to report

Staff Senate

- Nothing to report

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4:14pm.