

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

April 16th, 2025

3:30PM

Zoom

Present – Renee LeClair (presiding), Lisa Becksford, Carolyn Commer, Zai Cook, Rachel Holloway, Leslie LaConte, Nathan Lau, Sattar Mansi, Veronica van Montfrans, Kaylee South, Aimée Surprenant, Jerald Walz

Absent with Notice: Kwok Tsang

Absent: Aaron Bond, Nancy Bradley, Brian Bush, Kirk Cameron, Paul Emmons, Rose McGroarty, Kaustuv Ray, Brian Strahm, Tyler Walters

Guests: Janice Austin, John Chappell, Catherine Cotruppi, Monika Gibson, Barbara Hoopes, William Huckle, April Myers, Lauren Surface, Rachel Pitcher, William Poland

Renee called the meeting to order at 3:36pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Approval or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 2nd, 2025.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2nd minutes.

3. Unfinished Business

IPhD Proposal: Ethical AI and Adolescent Well-Being: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Societal Impact. Submitted by Ateba Whitaker

Renee presented the IPhD Proposal for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion, and the motion passed.

Institute for Advanced Computing

Renee made the motion to approve that CGPS&P endorse the proposal to establish the Thematic Institute: "Institute for Advanced Computing". The motion was seconded. A vote was electronically taken on the motion, and the motion passed with thirteen votes of approval.

4. New Business

CGPSP Resolution 2024-25C: Resolution to Update the Graduate Catalog

Renee presented the resolution for first reading and made a motion to approve the resolution as explained. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion, and the motion passed. The resolution proposes four updates to the graduate catalog:

1. Removal of the restriction that courses must not be taken pass/fail if a graded option is available.

2. Revised graduate admissions criteria, particularly for international students may not hold a four-year baccalaureate degree.
3. Clarified language on repeating courses within a plan of study.
4. Updated guidance on submitting a plan of study, requiring submission to the Graduate School as early as possible and no later than the term preceding the intended graduation date.

PPM No. 232, Policy on Untaught Courses in the Graduate Course Catalog: List of Courses Inactivated & Extended (Effective 202509)

Rachel Pitcher presented the list of courses to be inactivated and extended, effective Fall 2025.

Renee made a motion to approve the list. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion, and the motion passed.

5. Reports

- Graduate Student Appeals – Aimée Surprenant: None at this time.
- Graduate School - Aimée Surprenant: The University is working to keep the community updated on federal funding changes. Overall, the number of grants that have been cancelled are small, however, the University is working to bridge funds that have been lost. The Provost provided guidance for students who have lost their funding on next steps.
- DAP – Jerald Walz: None to report.
- NTCO GS Committee – Barbara Hoopes: The committee reflected on the data presented at our last meeting by Kacy Lawrence regarding application rejections, specifically those using the G4 (no space available) code. The continuing discussion considered the potential of intelligently “mining” the rejected applicant pool to perhaps reconsider students rejected by one program as potential applicants to another. Ideally, this could be a university-wide opportunity to find places for students who really want to attend VT, retaining rather than turning away talent who may not be suited for a particular program. It was suggested that we research what other universities are doing, and the committee agreed to put this on our agenda for the next academic year.
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate: None to report.
- Graduate Honor System – Rose McGroarty: None to report.
- University Libraries – Lisa Becksford: None to report.
- Faculty Senate – Carolyn Commer: None to report.
- Undergraduate Student Senate: None to report.
- Board of Visitors – William Poland: None to report.
- AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond: None to report.
- Staff Senate – Zai Cook: None to report.
- University Council: None to report.
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Rachel Holloway: None to report.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:12pm.