

Minutes
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
January 23, 2012
3:00 – 5:00 P.M. 230 Student Services Building

Present: D. Zahm (Acting Chair); V. Fowler; Y. Stivachtis; R. Holloway; S. Sumner for A. Grant; D. Thorp; B. Watford for R. Benson; A. Nelson; J. Browder; L. Beecher; S. Haymore for L. Chang; A. Hawthorne; A. Scripa; D. Smith; J. Penven; M. Denbow

Absent with Notification: L. Cavuoto; D. Stauffer; R. Sorensen; R. Panneton; J. Rankin; S. Taheri; N. Dam; S. McMullin

Absent without Notification: G. Schurig; D. Patterson; K. Heiter; S. Bennett

Visitors: W. Dean; M. Maloney; W. Ashton; S. Wilson; G. Long; A. Hager; S. Ott Rowlands; D. Wubah

Call to Order and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Diane Zahm, Acting Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The chair requested re-ordering of the agenda items to accommodate presentation. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Announcement of approval and posting of minutes

Diane Zahm announced the November 28, 2011 minutes were electronically approved and can be accessed via the University Registrar website.

New Business

Reports and Minutes from Commission Committees/Sub-Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curricula

Diane Zahm presented the report of the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula meeting of December 2, 2011. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula report of December 2, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

**For “First Reading Only”
Non-unanimous Approval**

Revised Checksheet Effective for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2014

College of Science

Bachelor of Arts in Physics

New Option Effective for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2014

College of Science

Bachelor of Arts in Physics: Pre-law Option

**For “First and Second Reading”
Unanimous Approval**

New Courses Effective Spring 2012

Pamplin College of Business

MGT 1945-1946 – Fundamentals of Cadet Leadership

MGT 2945-2946 – Small Unit Leadership for Cadets

MGT 3945-3946 – Cadet Organizational Leadership

MGT 4945-4946 – Executive Leadership for Cadets

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

C21S 2104 – Introduction to 21st Century Studies

C21S 4004 – Capstone Seminar: Twenty-first Century Studies

New Courses Effective Fall 2012

Pamplin College of Business

ACIS 4444 – Forensic Accounting

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

ENGL 4004 – Linguistic Discourse Analysis

New Minor Effective for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2012

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Minor in 21st Century Studies

New Minor Effective for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2014

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Minor in Language Sciences

Enrollment Restriction Effective Summer I 2012

College of Engineering

ENGE, AOE, BSE, CS, CHE, CEE, CEM, ECE, ENGR, ESM, ISE, ME, MSE, MINE

Course Discontinued Effective Spring 2012

Pamplin College of Business

MGT 2944 – Military Leadership Practicum

University Commencement Committee

Rachel Holloway presented the University Commencement Committee minutes of November 2, 2011 for approval. The motion was made and seconded to approve the University Commencement Committee minutes of November 2, 2011; the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Multimodal Transit Facility

Dr. Sherwood Wilson presented information on the planned Multimodal Transit Facility. He provided information on the timeline, site search, and project status. The planned new bus hub, consisting of a 12,000 square foot building, is currently planned for the corner of Derring parking lot (at the intersection of Perry St. and West Campus Dr).

Dr. Wilson explained the project evolution began with the Blacksburg Transit Authority 2004 feasibility study and supplemented by the 2006 University Master Plan inclusion of a transit facility on campus to reduce traffic on the drillfield. In 2010, the Town of Blacksburg received a grant from the Department of Federal Highways and Transportation to hire a consultant to determine which sites on the Virginia Tech campus were the most suitable. The consulting team determined that the Derring location was the most logical choice. At a recent Board of Visitors meeting, the membership directed the University to seek further environmental and impact studies to address concerns expressed by the College of Science faculty.

Members of the commission questioned the process of the planning for the facility specifically in regards to faculty and university community input. Dr. Wilson responded that the venture was led by the Town of Blacksburg and the public comment process was led by their leaders. Commission members suggested the university should have been proactive in the early stages of the project to seek university comment.

Dr. Gary Long, faculty from the College of Science, expressed concern that no faculty had been made aware of the proposed facility prior to its approval. He noted that the

College of Science has recently purchased expensive equipment that is both vibrations prone and environmentally sensitive, and there is concern that the location of the facility will negatively affect this equipment. Dr. Wilson stated that the air intake concern has been addressed from the beginning and if the environmental study, due to be completed in Spring 2012, finds that air intake will be a problem the facility will not be built at the proposed location. Dr. Wilson explained that the primary purpose for this facility is to get the buses off of the drillfield and to have a central transfer point. He indicated further meetings with the College of Science to consider the impact are planned.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm

Submitted by,
Megan Maloney
Office of the University Registrar