

Minutes
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
April 11, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 P.M. 230 Student Services Building

Present: S. McMullin (Chair); T. Drowne for J. Davis; C. Clemenz for R. Sorenson; S. Sumner for A. Grant; R. Holloway for S. Ott Rowlands; J. Sible for L. Chang; S. Case for R. Benson; C. Meier; J. Kim for R. Panneton; J. Rankin for K. DePauw; D. Thorp for D. Wubah; A. Studley; Y. Stivachtis; L. Anderson; D. Stauffer

Absent with Notification: S. Taheri

Absent without Notification: D. Patterson; G. Kelly; G. Schurig; M. Leung; T. Clements; M. Cardman; D. Russell; A. Reightler; J. Penven; A. Hawthorne; M. Denbow

Visitors: T. Ogle; W. Ashton; M. Maloney; B. Simmons

Call to Order and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm by Steve McMullin, Chair.

There was a brief statement made by Steve McMullin noting the electronic approval of the CUSP minutes of March 28, 2011.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Old Business

Reports from Commission Committees/Sub-Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curricula

Linda Anderson presented the report of the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula meeting of March 25, 2011. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula report of March 25, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

For “First and Second Reading”
Unanimous Approval

New Courses Effective Spring 2012

College of Engineering

MSE 4044 – Powder Processing

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

SPAN 2774 – Minority Languages in the Spanish Speaking World

AHRM 3224 – Apparel Production

AHRM 3234 – Fit, Patternmaking and Draping

AHRM 3244 – Small Business Apparel Retail Development

College of Natural Resources and Environment

FOR 2124 – Forests, Society, & Climate

FOR 2254 – Arboriculture Field Skills

Revised Courses Effective Spring 2012

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

AHRM 2264 – Apparel Product Development

AHRM 4024 – Portfolio

College of Science

STAT 4024 – Communication in Statistical Collaborations

STAT 4534 – Applied Statistical Time Series Analysis

Revised Minors Effective for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2013

College of Science

Minor in Chemistry

Minor in Economics

Minor in Mathematics

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Minor in Religion

Other Business

Posthumous Degree

Jill Sible, Associate Dean, College of Science moved approval of the posthumous awarding of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Psychology, to Amanda Montgomery, effective Spring 2011. Motion was seconded. Dean Sible indicated the request was at the recommendation of the faculty of the College of Science, and meets all requirements for

the degree as certified by the University Registrar. The student was in good standing and meets all requirements for a posthumous degree. Motion carried unanimously.

Scholarships and Financial Aid - update report

Barry Simmons presented a report on Scholarships and Financial Aid. He reported that their office is still processing the 2010-2011 financial aid requests. They will then continue with the 2011-2012 requests, but stressed that federal budget cuts will most likely affect reward amounts. He further explained that awards are based on estimated tuition and fees. He discussed PELL Grants, and the unfortunate fact that due to budget cuts, they may no longer be available for summer semesters. Smart loans have been completely eliminated, but they are working with students to find a combination of loans and grants to replace the amount of assistance available. He also stated that budget cuts have also affected work study funding. Since the number of students applying for work study continues to increase, it has forced the University to reduce work study pay caps from \$2000 to \$1200. He explained that starting July 1st, 2011, new federal regulations will require financial aid recipients to be evaluated each semester, as opposed to each academic year as is currently the University's practice. Although Virginia Tech is one of 140 state universities to qualify as a "quality assurance institution", allowing the university to determine the number of financial aid audits it conducts (usually 8-9%), the government will require all universities an audit quota of 30% as of the 2012 academic year. To combat these cuts, various tactics have been put into place such as offering students actual funds to offset financial aid hardships and offering discounted tuition rates. He went on to discuss the distribution of aid between in-state and out-of-state students. It was questioned if the University aid distribution favors in-state students. The answer is "yes", because they receive additional monies from the Virginia general fund, and also because in-state tuition is so much lower than out-of-state tuition.

Discussion and Vote of Support for Revised Policy 13005

The motion to lend support to the revision of policy 13005 was made and seconded. Concern was expressed that the establishment of new institutes is likely to be a zero-sum gain for the remainder of the institution. The suggestion was also made that at least one of the dean-level members be one who is not aligned with the areas of the proposed institute. Concern was also raised that given the substantial changes/revisions made to the policy, it may be more appropriate to have a new policy that supersedes the current one. It was explained that by doing this, we preserve the evolution in thought associated with the establishment of institutes/centers. With the way the revisions are currently being handled, that evolution is lost. These concerns were noted. The motion to approve the revision of policy 13005 passed with a vote of 13 in favor, 2 against.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm

Submitted by,
Megan Maloney
Office of the University Registrar