

## MINUTES

Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs  
February 19, 2025  
11:15 pm  
CID, Multipurpose Room (Room 104)

**Present:** Aarav Parikh (presiding), Kat Nelson (representing James Bridgeforth), April Myers (representing Kim O'Rourke), Dee Hopkins, Lauren Surface, Ethan Chang, Anusha Dhungana, Jeril Antoney, and Jungwoo Choi.

**Absent with Notice:** Dr. Haudait, James Bridgeforth (representing Frances Keene), Tsung-Yen Tsou, and Sarah Armstrong.

**Absent:** Crasha Townsend, Kimberly Smith, Yohan Sequeira, and Daniel Cherkasskiy.

**Guests:** Morgen Snowadzky, Chloe Ebert, Jill Sible, Alec Amador, Ram Bubby, and Alex Efird.

Aarav Parikh called the meeting to order at 11:17 am. A quorum was present.

### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2025**

The meeting minutes will be sent out electronically for approval.

### **3. Unfinished Business**

UCSO Constitution Updates

Aarav Parikh

Aarav shared that UCSO constitutions which haven't been reviewed in the last 3 years or need to be revised will be presented to CUSA this semester to ensure compliance with Policy 8012.

CUSA 2024-25A

Aarav Parikh

This resolution will be presented to the Undergraduate Student Senate for first reading on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. New Business**

Experiential Learning Guest Speaker

Jill Sible

Jill Sible shared the attached presentations to highlight the Student Opportunity Center and the Bridge Experience Program. The Student Opportunity Center helps curates experiential learning opportunities for a student's major while matching their needs and interests. Bridge experiences allow students to learn experientially through place-based opportunities and to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities for success in their future endeavors.

The following questions were asked during the discussion:

1. How does a bridge experience look on a student transcript?

Bridge experiences are listed as 3900.

2. Could a bridge experience be paid for by a sponsoring department?

Bridge experiences can be paid from a variety of sources including wage dollars, VT experience internship opportunities, or grant opportunities.

3. How can undergraduate students help support increasing the number of bridge experience opportunities offered?

Advocating for gaining additional experience, having space in their curriculum plan to get credit for bridge programs, and participating in the feedback experience on their bridge experience.

4. What is the current outreach work looking like for Pell-eligible students, transfer students, and first-generation students?

There are ongoing discussions about making bridge experiences part of degree programs. There are some grant opportunities for summer bridge programs, partnerships with financial aid to share information, some opportunities to use work study funding for experiential learning, and on-going partnerships with professional staff members who directly work with transfer students.

5. What are the biggest barriers to expanding bridge opportunities?

Having streamlined communication to support multiple departments trying to connect with the same non-profit or organization to provide similar opportunities. Being in southwest Virginia does present some limitations for the number of opportunities available. The ability to offer all students the opportunity for a bridge experience across different departments.

6. How would a student that's interested in a bridge experience seek out that opportunity?

The student would need to start in their academic department. The Student Opportunity Center can help provide connections as well. An academic advisor could also provide support, but this is still in pilot mode.

## **5. CUSA Conversations**

1. Questions for Dr. Rachel Holloway (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs) and Dr. Ron Fricker (Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs) regarding SPOT Surveys on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission members should share any questions they have for these guests with Aarav.

## **6. University Council and Commission Updates**

Resolution proposal completed for the proposed USS Constitution updates

Aarav Parikh

## **7. Announcements**

## **8 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.