

MINUTES

Academic Support Committee

March 3rd, 2026

9:00AM

Zoom

Present – S. Clements (presiding), E. Austin, H. Drewry, F. Ferretti, C. Haines, M. Kimbrell, M. Manteghu, S. Marine, S. Mutsa Jozi, S. Rinehart, K. Robertson, N. Schwab, D. Sedgwick, J. Weppner,

Absent with Notice: M. Davidson, I. Lazar, J. Lucas, R. Sparks

Absent: A. Parikh, E. Wikel, M. Wypyski

Guests: E. Moon, R. Pitcher, Z. Tucker

Sherwood Clements called the meeting to order at 9:02. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. New Business – Fall Break Resolution Discussion

The committee continued discussion regarding a proposed expansion of Fall Break to a four-day break. S. Marine asked whether expanding the break could result in increased student absences on the Wednesday prior to the break, similar to concerns that currently occur on the Thursday. S. Rinehart noted that this concern exists regardless of the model chosen and that guidance to faculty during syllabus development could help address expectations for student attendance. She suggested that attendance policies may be helpful, though acknowledged that enforcement could be difficult.

D. Sedgwick stated that review of peer institutions demonstrated that the university is one of the only Virginia peer institutions that does not currently offer a four-day Fall Break. S. Marine noted that if a Fall Reading Day were moved, corresponding adjustments may be needed for the Spring semester to maintain consistency.

Questions were raised regarding the impact on final examinations. Committee members noted the importance of confirming the number of exam days and how those days would be reflected in official academic calendars and committee documentation. S. Rinehart suggested collecting data on how exams are currently conducted during the final exam period, noting that traditional sit-down exams are not universally used.

M. Kimbrell echoed this observation, stating that teaching styles have evolved and that project-based learning and alternative assessments are increasingly common. K. Robertson added that in several courses, students may be exempt from final exams if they earn a qualifying grade during the course.

S. Marine suggested exploring whether it would be possible to collect information regarding which courses require formal exam rooms and which do not. D. Sedgwick responded that collecting and managing this information would present significant resource and administrative challenges for

both faculty and staff.

C. Haines shared that Student Success and Disability Services (SSD) did not express concerns regarding the proposed changes or number of days under discussion.

S. Clements shared a draft resolution document with the committee. Committee members provided feedback aimed at improving clarity, including clarification regarding a Saturday start date, alignment with Virginia peer institutions offering a four-day Fall Break, potential inclusion of information related to the exam period, and ensuring that timelines for grade submission are not reduced.

With the revisions, S. Clements noted he would get additional feedback from the associate deans who could share the draft resolution with affected stakeholders in their perspective colleges.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:40am.