MINUTES

CUSA Meeting
October 10, 2025
9:00 am
CID Multi-Purpose Rooms

Present: Aarav Parikh (presiding), James Bridgeforth (representing France Keene), Kat Nelson (representing James Bridgeforth), Yohan Sequeira, Lindsay Barron, April Myers (representing Kim O'Rourke), Tamara Cherry-Clarke, Kyla Dance, Sarah Armstrong, Dee Hopkins, Sydney Holland, Cady Shenk, Tanvi Aggarwal, Lindsay Ricci (Arturo Soriano), and Opal Cohen.

Absent with Notice:

Absent: Mantu Hudait, Jacob Sobol, Jeril Antoney, and Kimberly Smith.

Guests: Emma Roshirou, Rachel McLaughlin, and Winn Williams.

Aarav Parikh called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 12, 2025

Aarav noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu

3. Unfinished Business

None.

4. New Business

Policy 8012 presentation and status updates

Aarav provided an overview of Policy 8012 and background information on the different types of student organization classifications. The focus of the discussion was to highlight the need for a documentation process for when UCSOs must switch advising home departments, transition to a different student organization classification, or dissolve as an entity.

James Bridgeforth highlighted that in instances where these situations have occurred in the past, it was because of unique circumstances, there were factors not within the realm of shared governance that prompted a necessary change, and robust conversations took place in advance of any enacted changes.

Rachel McLaughlin provided an example of this with Muslim Student Association (MSA). All UCSOs are required to have a professional staff member as an advisor. This involves the job duty being written into a staff member's job description, and the respective department must have wage funding and capacity to serve as a host department for the UCSO. In the case of MSA, the previous advisor retired, and the office no longer had the capacity to serve as the host department. After reviewing alignment with different offices throughout student affairs, the next host department was identified, and the job duties were added to a different staff member's job description.

All members of CUSA recognized the need to balance flexibility in instances where these changes need to occur while following non-governance procedures and providing clarity for future student organization leaders in case similar situations occur.

An initial recommendation was proposed to create a template to help document these changes. This template would outline the recent history of the organization, what changes have occurred to require a shift with the UCSO, what updates will take place with the UCSO, and what communication to stakeholders will be. This would be stored somewhere that could be accessed by future student leaders for transparency and continuity purposes. This concept could be proposed as an administrative update to Policy 8012 and could include that CUSA must be notified when this takes place.

Opal Cohen and Sydney Holland emphasized the critical nature of proactive communication for future situations where this takes place. Opal was also requested inclusion of specific language around instances where UCSO leaders are involved with the process and are in favor of the organization being dissolved vs outside circumstances occur and the UCSO is required to be dissolved.

This discussion will continue during the next CUSA meeting with the goal of determining whether an administrative edit to Policy 8012 is necessary, identifying preferred communication timelines for changes with UCSOs, and what information should be included in future documentation of changes for UCSOs.

5. Constituent Reports

None.

6. Presentation

None.

7. Other Items

None.

8. Announcements

None.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m.