

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
NOVEMBER 13TH, 2023
3:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: D. Zahm (presiding); K. Goyne; R. Holloway; S. Huxtable; M. Kimbrell; N. Nassan; V. Nguyen; M. Norris; G. Novack; S. Over; M. Pleimling; K Redican; S. Shupe; N. Smith for K. Thompson; M. Seref; K. Swaby; D. Thorp; J. Tokuhisa; K. Tran

ABSENT: K. Albright; K. Edgar; S. Ganapuram; C. Ruktanonchai; N. Staley; S. Sumner; R. Waheed; A. Zink-Sharp

GUESTS: E. McCorkle; R. Pitcher; R. Sparks

D. Zahm called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL AND POSTING OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23RD, 2023

D. Zahm noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

Academic Policy Discussion

“W” Grade Policy

D. Zahm opened the floor for discussion about the “W” Grade Policy. Topics included:

- “W” grades are the same as an earned grade for tuition, financial aid, and athletic eligibility as the student is still enrolled in the course. However, a “W” does not move a student towards degree completion and therefore counts against a student’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), similar to an “F” grade.
- Should students be able to take a “W” grade after grades are posted for the semester? There was support for this possibility because students can perform better than they think. In addition, there was caution about this approach because there are some students who would take “W” grades for courses that are not an “A.” If this policy was adopted, it was discussed that a maximum grade requirement should be considered.
- It is difficult for students to know what their current grade in a class is. Even if a professor is keeping most grades current, there are still some assignments and the final

exam to be graded at the end of the semester. As a result, a student might not know their grade in the class until it is too late to take a “W.”

- Students who withdraw from a class and its lab or studio lab component, use two “W”s immediately. Should an additional “W” for 1 or 2 credit hours courses be added in addition to the current 3 “W”s to account for this?
- The changes to the policy would affect Academic Standing, the Course Repeat policy, and GPA expectations for scholarships.
- Are 3 “W”s sufficient for students? It was determined that the commission needs to collect data on how many “W”s students currently use.

NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE AND POSTING OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEES/SUB -COMMITTEES REPORTS AND/OR MINUTES

Academic Support Committee

No report.

Academic Policies Committee

M. Pleimling reported that the committee has made progress with Policy 91 revisions. After one more meeting, they should be able to begin a draft.

M. Pleimling presented the minutes of the October 24th, 2023 Academic Policies Committee. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 24th, 2023 minutes of the Academic Policies Committee.

Athletics Committee

No report.

Commencement Committee

M. Kimbrell presented the minutes of the October 4th, 2023 Commencement Committee. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 4th, 2023 minutes of the Commencement Committee.

Honor Council

No report.

Library Committee

No report.

University Curriculum Committee for General Education

N. Tran provided a brief summary of the proposed changes to the assessment for Pathways courses. He explained that this redesign would reduce the number of courses that are assessed each year, and it would make the reviews more thorough.

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

No report.

Staff Senate

No report.

Faculty Senate

No report.

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report.

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nominations of CUSP Sub-Committee Chairs and Representatives For Academic Year 2023-2024

The following individual accepted the nomination to serve as Chair and Representative of CUSP Sub-Committees for Academic Year 2023-2024:

- Academic Support Committee
 - Commission will revisit at the November 27th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Pitcher, Office of the University Registrar*