

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
FEBRUARY 24TH, 2025
3:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: J. Tokuhisa (presiding); N. Akers; E. Austin; K. Goyne; K. Heiderscheit; R. Holloway; S. Huxtable; M. Kimbrell; V. Nguyen; S. Over; M. Pleimling; R. Poff; L. Ricci; S. Rinehart; M. Seref; S. Sumner; S. Shupe; R. Sparks; N. Staley; D. Thorp; K. Tran; K. Thompson

ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

ABSENT: J. Russell; J. Bedore; C. Ruktanonchai; K. Edgar; Z. Fu; A. Phan; N. Tasnim; J. Walker

GUESTS: L. Rose; N. Smith; E. Anderson, R. Pitcher; Z. Tucker

J. Tokuhisa 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

J. Tokuhisa noted that the minutes from the February 10, 2025, meeting were voted on electronically and posted to the Office of the University Registrar's website.
(<http://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html>)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Continuous Enrollment Policy Update

R. Sparks provided a brief update stating that revisions to the Continuous Enrollment Policy are still under review, with further details to be shared in the future.

Foreign Language Requirements Discussion Follow Up

M. Pleimling asked about the Commission's direction and decisions related to recent discussions about the Foreign Language Requirements. At this time, the Commission is waiting on feedback from J. Espinoza. For the next meeting, this topic will be added as a formal agenda item where Commission members will be asked to vote on how Foreign Languages requirements will be handled in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Use of Text Messaging Policy

J. Tokuhisa introduced a discussion on the implementation of a text messaging policy. The committee deliberated on the need for a structured messaging framework to ensure consistency and prevent excessive communication. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the professional and ethical implications of utilizing text messaging for academic and administrative purposes. Members emphasized the importance of a clear opt-out option for students. The discussion also highlighted challenges related to maintaining accurate student phone numbers and potential restrictions within the Navigate application.

R. Sparks clarified that the university administration has been discussing this type of policy in general and it was considered that the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies had the most applicable charge for this potential policy.

Class Size Impact on Student Learning Outcomes

J. Tokuhisa led a discussion on how class size impacts student learning outcomes. Concerns were raised regarding differences in modalities and their impact on learning. Members noted that small class sizes improve engagement but raised concerns that some classes may not be structured to support student success at scale. There was a call for more data-driven analysis and pedagogical approaches to address potential issues.

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

Academic Support Committee

No report.

Academic Policies Committee

No report.

Athletics Committee

No report.

Commencement Committee

No report.

Honor Council

No report.

Library Committee

No report.

University Curriculum Committee for General Education

No report.

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

No report.

Staff Senate

No report.

Faculty Senate

J. Tokuhisa shared the discussion of amending the faculty handbook to include verbiage related to “the Principles of Community.”

J. Tokuhisa shared that a resolution has been passed to create a discussion forum outside of the Faculty Senate that is open to all the university community to share concerns.

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report.

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Evie Anderson & Rachel Pitcher, Office of the University Registrar*