

## **MINUTES**

### **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**3:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**Present** – J. Tokuhisa (presiding), E. Austin; K Goyne; K. Heiderscheit; R. Holloway; S. Huxtable; M. Kimbrell; V. Nguyen; M. Pleimling; R. Poff; L. Ricci; S. Rinehart; J. Russell; S. Shupe; R. Sparks; N. Staley; D. Thorp; K. Tran; K. Thompson

**Absent with Notice:** N. Akers; S. Over

**Absent:** J. Bedore; K. Edgar; Z. Fu; A. Phan; C. Ruktanonchai; M. Seref; S. Sumner; N. Tasnim; J. Walker

**Guests:** A. Myers; N. Smith; K. Wells; E. Anderson; R. Pitcher; Z. Tucker

J. Tokuhisa called the meeting to order at 3:01. A quorum was present.

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

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

#### **2. Approval or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

J. Tokuhisa noted that the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Office of the University Registrar's website:

<http://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html>

#### **3. Unfinished Business**

##### **Continuous Enrollment Policy Update**

R. Sparks presented the Continuous Enrollment Policy Update. Following discussion concerning what types of students would be impacted by a revision to the continuous enrollment policy, a determination was made to draft language that would exclude graduate students returning as non-degree seeking students. A motion was not made at this meeting.

##### **Text Messaging Policy**

J. Tokuhisa and R. Sparks presented an update on a draft Text Messaging Policy. Following discussion, it was recommended to include time for further discussion on this policy at the next meeting. It is estimated that a policy draft will be ready by next academic year. A motion was not made at this meeting.

##### **Foreign Language Requirements Discussion**

R. Sparks presented data provided by J. Espinoza concerning how other institutions handle foreign language requirements. R. Sparks added that Virginia Tech is unique amongst other universities in that most institutions that have a foreign language admissions requirement also had a foreign language graduation requirement. Virginia Tech only has a foreign language admissions requirement, and it is not enforced until graduation. Commission members raised concerns about what impact removing the requirement would have on high school advanced diploma requirements. J. Tokuhisa will draft a resolution to make the foreign language an admission requirement that is enforced at the time of admission. A motion was not made at this meeting.

#### **4. Reports**

- Academic Support Committee – John Lucas: Nothing to report.
- Academic Policies Committee – Michel Pleimling: Nothing to report.
- Athletics Committee – Dan Thorp: A motion was made to accept the committee minutes from September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024; October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024; November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024; December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024; January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025; and February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The motion was approved.
- Commencement Committee – Monica Kimbell: A motion was made to accept the committee minutes from March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The motion was approved.
- Honor Council – Anthony Phan: Nothing to report.
- Library Committee – Sarah Over: Nothing to report.
- University Curriculum Committee for General Education – Khanh Ngoc Tran: A motion was made to accept the committee minutes from September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024; October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024; November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024; December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024; February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025; and March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. M. Pleimling raised concerns that UCCGE was removing Pathways designations from courses according to the March 5<sup>th</sup> minutes, as being outside the Committee's purview. Several Commission members clarified that the departments submitted the courses to UCCGE for review and that their recommendations to remove Pathways designations or not was within their purview. R. Pitcher added that Pathways designations had not been removed from any courses yet in case they impacted current students.
- Constituent Reports – Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate – Nicole Akers: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Staff Senate – Sally Shupe: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Faculty Senate – Zhuo Fu: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Undergraduate Student Senate – Jordan Walker and Lindsay Ricci: No report.
- Constituent Reports: Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Noor Tasnim: No report.

#### **5. Presentation – UCCGE Draft Pathways Courses Resolutions**

K. Tran, University Curriculum Committee for General Education representative, presented on Two Draft Resolutions in Development at UCCGE. Resolution #1 to Remove the Pathways Designation for Courses Not Serving Pathways and Resolution #2 to Implement a Recertification Requirement for Pathways Courses. The Commission was then opened for discussion. S. Rinehart raised issue with the quick deadline for responding to the resolutions and requested an extension so academic advisors could also be consulted and their feedback gathered. This was echoed by several other members of the commission. K. Goyne requested an adjustment to the number of courses departments are required to review in a given academic year to accommodate faculty with high workloads. K. Tran indicated that he would give this feedback to the committee at the next UCCGE meeting. Links with information to provide feedback to the UCCGE and full copies of the draft resolutions were provided during the meeting and are on the Office of the University Registrar website.

#### **6. Other Items**

- Nomination/Review of CUSP Sub-Committee Chair and Representatives for Academic Year 2024-2025. All currently presiding chairs were open to the prospect of continuing to serve in the current roles. M. Pleimling suggested stepping down from his current role as Chair of the Academic Policies Committee because the previous two chairs had only served a maximum of two years.

## **7. Announcements**

- FYI CUSP Catalog Policy Review. R. Sparks notified the Commission that at the next meeting a vote will be held to certify policy changes before the publication of the 2025-2026 academic catalog. This is a new annual responsibility of the commission. A red-lined version of the changes will be provided to the Commission prior to the next meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:25.