

MINUTES

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

February 9th, 2026

3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Present – J. Tokuhisa (presiding), E. Austin, A. Ball, M. Caddick, K. Goyne, M. Kimbrell, H. Lexer, S. Over, M. Pleimling, R. Poff, L. Ricci, S. Rinehart, J. Russell, M. Seref, J. Sible, R. Sparks, S. Sumner, K. Thompson, D. Thorp

Absent with Notice: N. Akers; J. Bedore; S. Clements

Absent: M. Acosta; S. Dip; C. Middleton, K. Edgar; C. Ruktanonchai

Guests: J. Gallagher, J. Leech, E. Moon, V. Nguyen, R. Pitcher, L. Rose, N. Smith, K. Tran, Z. Tucker

J. Tokuhisa called the meeting to order at 3:02. 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 January 26th, 2026.

J. Tokuhisa noted that the January 26th, 2026 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. New Business

Discussion – CUSP Reflection Survey

J. Tokuhisa reviewed the results of the reflection survey that was sent out to CUSP members following the last meeting. J. Tokuhisa identified several themes in the responses. Areas that members felt CUSP could improve were communicating with Faculty Senate, the slow and/or repetitive nature of the commission's work, and a lack of structure during meetings. J. Tokuhisa and R. Sparks plan on conducting outreach to the Faculty Senate to help familiarize them with CUSP's work and hopefully improve that communication. Regarding the structure of the meetings and work of the commission, J. Tokuhisa shared that starting next meeting there will be more structure and action because several resolutions will be ready for their first readings. J. Tokuhisa then opened the topic for discussion. R. Sparks highlighted that new CUSP member onboarding was also a point of concern from the survey and the Academic Governance team in the Office of the University Registrar will improve their process of reaching out to new CUSP members.

CUSP 2025-26A – Resolution for Review Process Pathways Concept 7 (1st Reading)

J. Tokuhisa provided an overview of recent university and governance actions that have led up to this CUSP resolution as well as a similar resolution from CGPSP. CUSP charged UCCGE with drafting this resolution as they oversee Pathways and K. Tran noted that the drafted resolution

makes note that Pathways is under the purview of UCCGE and they should be heavily involved in the revision of Pathways 7.

D. Thorp asked for the resolution to be amended to include that UCCGE and CUSP reaffirms the Virginia Tech Principles of Community.

M. Pleimling noted that the CUSP resolution and CGPSP resolution did not match. While the CGPSP resolution concluded that the university president acted within the rules the university Constitution and Bylaws on Principles of Shared Governance, the CUSP resolution implies that the university president acted outside of those principles. J. Gallagher and K. Tran clarified that UCCGE's opinion was that this situation did not meet the criteria of "exigent circumstances" and if it wasn't against the exact rules of shared governance then it still ran was not in alignment with the spirit of shared governance.

M. Pleimling asked to remove the second clause in the first whereas statement on the second page concerning not following the principles of shared governance from the resolution. J. Tokuhisa proposed modifying the whereas statement section in question to strengthen the commission's stance while avoiding commenting on the Principles of Shared Governance.

M. Caddick suggested adding "regrettably" to the beginning of the whereas statement on the second page to read, "Regrettably, faculty were not consulted about the decision to suspend the concept..." and commission members agreed this was a good addition. Additionally, there was discussion about adding context saying this did not go through "regular" governance approval, but it was agreed upon not to move forward with this revision.

J. Tokuhisa concluded the discussion by stating the commission will make the requested amendments to the first whereas statement on the second page of the resolution including adding "regrettably" at the beginning of the statement and removing "the curricular change did not follow principles of shared governance." Also, in the "Be It Further Resolved That" section "and CUSP" will be added after UCCGE. With these changes, it will be presented to the Faculty Senate at their next meeting.

4. Reports

- Academic Support Committee – Sherwood Clements: R. Sparks shared that the committee had its first meeting and discussed different ways of accommodating Fall break. The most popular option was extending the length of the semester. The committee is now drafting a proposal to show colleges and gather feedback. S. Clements did not believe that a resolution would be ready until next semester.
- Academic Policies Committee – Michel Pleimling: No report
- Athletics Committee – Dan Thorp: No report.
- Commencement Committee – Monica Kimbrell: No report.
- Honor Council – Hannah Lexer: J. Tokuhisa introduced Hannah Lexer as the new representative for Honor Council. No report.
- Library Committee – Sarah Over: No report.
- University Curriculum Committee for General Education – Khanh Ngoc Tran: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate – Nicole Akers: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Staff Senate – Misti Acosta: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Faculty Senate – S. Clements: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Undergraduate Student Senate – L. Ricci; C. Middleton: L. Ricci reported that a senator was interested in the policies surrounding standardized testing and will be reaching out to J. Tokuhisa in the future to see if it falls under CUSP responsibilities.

- Constituent Reports: Graduate and Professional Student Senate – S. Dip: No report.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:02.