MINUTES

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
October 12th, 2026
3:00 PM
In person in SSB 230 & Via Zoom

Present – S. Clements (presiding), E. Austin, A. Ball, D. Bairakatrova, J. Bedore, M. Caddick, M. Eick, K. Goyne, K. Griffin, M. Kimbrell, N. Li, L. Nagy, R. Poff, M. Pleimling, C. Rawlings, N. Russell, J. Sible, S. Sumner, K. Thompson, L. Vinsel, M. Wagner

Absent with Notice: M. Seref

Absent: N. Akers, K. Edgar, K. Lewis, S. Rinehart, H. Sunderman

Guests: B. Armstrong, E. Moon, R. Pitcher, L. Rose, N. Smith, R. Sparks, J. Tokuhisa, Z. Tucker

Sherwood Clements called the meeting to order at 3:00PM 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 September 28th, 2026**

   Sherwood Clements noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Office of the University Registrar's website.

3. **New Business**

   Financial Aid Presentation
   Beth Armstrong, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Director of Student Financial Aid, presented on cost of attendance and updates regarding federal student loan borrowing limits as well as parent loan limits. The presentation indicated that financial aid is required to establish the cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, housing, meals, books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

   B. Armstrong also provided an update on the OB3/Working Families Tax Cuts Act. The discussion referenced the elimination and phase-out of the Grad PLUS program and federal student loan borrowing limits for student and parent borrowers. The presentation further noted a legacy, or grandfathered, provision for up to the next three years for PLUS loans (pre-cap) and Grad PLUS loans (pre-elimination). Also, she noted that students may change majors but must remain continuously enrolled, and that there is a schedule of reduction based on less than full-time enrollment.

   Additional topics included historical bill cycles and how OB3 does not abide by these historical norms. The commission also heard references to Workforce Pell, institutional accountability, and circumstances in which non-federal financial assistance meets or exceeds the applicable cost-of-attendance or aid threshold referenced.

B. Armstrong stated that the earnings premium database benchmark is based on comparing salaries in relevant fields to high school graduation earnings four years after high school. She also stated that CIP code is the basis of the reporting.

Sherwood Clements and multiple committee members asked clarifying questions during the presentation. B. Armstrong shared that the Office of Financial Aid is still working to implement other aspects of OB3 and will provide updates as applicable.

4. Reports

- Academic Support Committee – Sherwood Clements: No report.
- Academic Policies Committee – Michel Pleimling: No report.
- Athletics Committee – Ron Poff: No report.
- Commencement Committee – Michelle Seref: No report.
- Honor Council – Nolan Russell: No report.
- Library Committee – Katlyn Griffin: The committee has struggled to attain quorum but received a presentation from the Library Dean.
- University Curriculum Committee for General Education – Cara Rawlings: Committee's work included a Pathways review survey, which she linked in the Zoom chat.
- Constituent Reports – Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate – Nicole Akers: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Staff Senate – Misti Acosta: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Faculty Senate – Matt Eick: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Undergraduate Student Senate – Liam Nagy: No report.
- Constituent Reports: Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Nathan Li: The committee has focused on graduate teaching assistantship contracts which end in spring before finals and grades are due. This prohibits GAs from finishing their grading. The committee is investigating altering end dates so GAs can complete grading before their contracts end.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 PM.