

Minutes of the Academic Support Committee

October 21, 2021

Present: P. Deck (chair), F. Keene, M. Kimbrell, S. Bear, E. Malczewski, L. Mihalcea, K. Lu, E Foerst, N. Girmes-Grieco, A. Kennedy, and P. Pithua.

1. Meeting called to order by P. Deck at 1:00 PM.

a. Members self-introduced and the agenda was accepted.

b. P. Deck read the committee's charge: To review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to academic support, including but not limited to the university calendar, scheduling and registration, scholarships and financial aid, classroom management, and summer school.

- Specifically, our task is to make a recommendation as to whether Juneteenth should become a no-classes day.

2. Floor was opened for discussion on the issue of process for preparing our recommendation.

a. A question arose about other potential holidays such as Washington's Birthday, Veteran's Day, and Columbus Day, all of which are Federal holidays. P. Deck replied that we were asked by CUSP and the Registrar to confine the scope of our recommendation to Juneteenth. Moreover, the other holidays are within the spring and fall terms which are much more troublesome logistically.

b. In view of the past PPMs and other discussion on campus the general sense of the committee was that we were likely to recommend endorsing a no-classes day for Juneteenth.

c. We discussed the issue of gathering buy-in and broader support before proceeding with our formal recommendation. It was suggested to reach out to Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and AP Faculty Senate for their comments on perhaps a draft proposal or draft resolution. P. Deck will discuss next steps with R. Sparks to determine best way to approach the Senates.

d. We believe it will be much smoother sailing for any such proposal if the Registrar can pledge that no instructional days will be lost in the summer to accommodate the observation of Juneteenth, and if the Registrar can offer any other concrete information about implementation.

3. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Proposed Draft Resolution to share with the Senates:

- Whereas the background and rationale for commemorating Juneteenth was eloquently expressed in PPM 331b (to be attached or paraphrased), and
- Whereas Juneteenth can be observed without losing a day of instruction (presuming a guarantee to that effect from the Registrar),
- Be it resolved that Virginia Tech will observe Juneteenth annually as a no-classes day on or near June 19, and
- Be it further resolved that from the year 2023 onward, Summer Session 1 and Summer Session 2 shall have the same number of instructional days.