

Minutes of the Academic Support Committee

March 7, 2022

In lieu of a face-to-face meeting, the Committee managed the following business by asynchronous electronic means.

Old Business: Juneteenth Recommendation.

Background: The Committee met in October 2021 to begin the process of drafting a recommendation to CUSP about whether Juneteenth should be a no-classes day. The following questions were raised during that discussion:

Question 1: What about other Federal holidays like Veterans Day? Should we be honoring those, too?

Response: Maybe – but other holidays are beyond the scope of our charge. Our charge is only to determine whether Juneteenth should be added. Also note that adding more holidays to the Fall and Spring terms is much more difficult than adding one to the Summer Session. (For example, adding Labor Day was very challenging.)

Question 2: Will Juneteenth just be a holiday for students? Or will it be a holiday for staff, A/P faculty, etc.?

Response: Our charge only involves whether it should be a holiday for students. Holidays for staff, A/P faculty, etc., are beyond the scope of business at CUSP. However, the matter is being considered, and my sense, from what I have heard, is that there is a strong desire to make Juneteenth a holiday for everyone.

Also following up on October 2021 discussions, in November, 2021, a message was sent to all of the five Senates inviting comment on the prospect of recognizing Juneteenth as a no-classes day. No responses were heard.

Vote:

In March 2022, hearing no substantive objections from anyone regarding the proposal, instead of organizing a second face-to-face meeting, Paul Deck put the question to a simple vote of the committee and allowed one week for their response using Google Forms. In the email containing the polling link, committee members were invited to request a face-to-face meeting should they feel additional discussion or a more formal proceeding was warranted, but no member made such a request.

The vote (12 members voted) was unanimously in favor of making Juneteenth a “no-classes” day at VT during the first portion of the Summer Session.

Conclusion:

The Academic Support Committee recommends making Juneteenth a no-classes day.

PA Deck, 07 March 2022