

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
OCTOBER 9, 2023
3:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: D. Zahm (presiding); K. Albright; K. Goynes; R. Holloway; S. Huxtable; M. Kimbrell; N. Nassan; V. Nguyen; M. Norris; G. Novack; S. Over; M. Pleimling; K. Redican; M. Seref; S. Shupe; N. Smith for K. Thompson; N. Staley; S. Sumner; K. Swaby; D. Thorp; J. Tokuhisa; K. Tran

ABSENT: K. Edgar; S. Ganapuram; C. Ruktanonchai; R. Waheed; A. Zink-Sharp

GUESTS: L. Buchanan; E. McCorkle; R. Pitcher; R. Sparks; X. Ma

D. Zahm called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL AND POSTING OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

D. Zahm noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

Academic Policy Discussion

D. Zahm shared a list of comments sent in from individuals within the advising network. The following topics were discussed in response to the advising network comments:

- W Grades
- Transfer Policies
 - R. Sparks responded to tell us about transferology which will be helpful to show students up to date course equivalencies. In addition, potential students will be able to run a DARS analysis to see how these classes would satisfy the requirements for different degree programs.
 - N. Smith brought attention to students who do not have equivalencies that are in the current system. In the future, we need to consider how to attract these students and consider their course work and how it equates at Virginia Tech. R. Sparks said this is something they are monitoring in the future to see how the university

can evaluate these courses in a timely manner. This is a challenge because most courses need to be reviewed in the summer months when most faculty are off due to being on 9 month appointments.

- Midterm Grades
 - S. Sumner shared that the deadline for midterm grades has been moved up to be around the time of Course Request. However, it does not address other issues like if faculty submit midterm grades for all students, if all faculty submit midterm grades on time, and if faculty submit identical midterm grades.
 - D. Thorp discussed reevaluating the midterm grade deadline in relation to the drop course deadline.
- Switching from University Studies to “Exploring” Students
 - Multiple CUSP members discussed students in exploring classes not being interested in the perspective majors corresponding with that college. Instead, they are already interested in switching their major to another college.
- Disenrollment for Nonpayment
- General Process Towards Policy Review
 - R. Holloway said CUSP looked closely at Policy 6305 during the last meeting. She asked M. Pleimling to call a meeting of the Academic Policies Committee to further discuss this policy related to credit hours, specific courses, GPA, AP/Dual Enrollment, and other applicable categories.
 - In relation to Policy 91, D. Zahm asked each college dean about their usage of the policy. Some departments within colleges use this policy heavily while some colleges do not use it at all.
 - R. Holloway commented on departments using Policy 91 as an enrollment management tool instead of a student success policy.

NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE AND POSTING OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEES/SUB -COMMITTEES REPORTS AND/OR MINUTES

Academic Support Committee

No report.

Academic Policies Committee

M. Pleimling reported that a meeting will be called soon.

Athletics Committee

No report.

Commencement Committee

M. Kimbrell reported that the call for volunteers for Fall 2023 commencement is happening now. Also, other universities have been experiencing students and families not waiting for the ceremony to be over to leave.

Honor Council

N. Nassan reported that Honor Panels have started. Also, they are beginning to review an Honor Policy related to providing opportunities for students.

Library Committee

No report.

University Curriculum Committee for General Education

No report.

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

No report.

Staff Senate

No report.

Faculty Senate

No report.

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report.

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Request for Posthumous Degree:

N. Smith, representative for K. Thompson Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, moved for approval of the posthumous awarding of the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Major in Mechanical Engineering, to David Gudiel, effective Fall 2023. N. Smith indicated that the request was based on the recommendation and support of the faculty of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering.

Nominations of CUSP Sub-Committee Chairs and Representatives For Academic Year 2023-2024

The following individual accepted the nomination to serve as Chair and Representative of CUSP Sub-Committees for Academic Year 2023-2024:

- Academic Support Committee
 - Commission will revisit at the October 23rd meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Pitcher, Office of the University Registrar*