

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES**  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 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 for C. Ruktanonchai; M. Seref for L. Khansa; S. Shupe; N. Smith for K. Thompson; N. Staley; S. Sumner; K. Swaby; J. Tokuhsa; K. Tran;

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

**GUESTS:** R. Pitcher; R. Sparks

D. Zahm called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 11, 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>).

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review Guiding Principles**

D. Zahm reviewed the proposed goals for CUSP and provided the guiding principles below for the commission as they pursue these goals:

- Academic policy should be structured to promote timely progression to degree completion, by creating appropriate frameworks and boundaries to guide decision making for, and by, students.
- Academic policy should be proactive and focus on early identification and intervention.
- Academic policy should be designed to promote student learning and success, not to create efficiencies or conveniences for the institution.
- Academic policy should be data-informed.

**Review of Policy 91**

R. Sparks shared a history of Policy 91 that covered the following topics:

- Policy 91 is a section of university policy 6305.
- The focus of this policy is for students to stay in good standing at the institution and to progress towards degree completion.
- Colleges and departments can make additions to this policy for their program requirements and they have been historically approved by CUSP.
- The original intent of this program was to prevent students from academic and financial hardship.

### **Discussion of Policy 91**

D. Zahm opened the floor for discussion about Policy 91. Topics included:

- Students who are in good standing but are missing one class related to Policy 91 requirements.
- In-Major GPA varies by major and is not accounted for within Policy 91.
- Students with Pell or Veterans Benefits must meet certain requirements and complete their degree within 4 years to be eligible for funding.
- Our current suspension policy uses cumulative GPA, not term GPA. As a result, students can create hardships for themselves before Policy 91 would come into effect.
- On some checksheets, Policy 91 requirements have become numerous and difficult to measure. This can lead to the requirements not being checked or advisors checking them manually for each student within their college or department.
- General education requirements have evolved since this policy was written and now are more integrated into the overall degree requirements. As a result, the general education metrics set in place by Policy 91 are difficult to enforce.
- Systems in place to warn students about their academic standing.

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

#### **Academic Support Committee**

No report.

#### **Academic Policies Committee**

No report.

#### **Athletics Committee**

No report.

#### **Commencement Committee**

No report.

### **Honor Council**

Honor Council panels have begun.

### **Library Committee**

No report.

### **University Curriculum Committee for General Education**

No report.

### **Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate**

A scholarship has been awarded. The recipient has not been announced yet. Fundraising will start soon so another recipient can be chosen next year.

### **Staff Senate**

No report.

### **Faculty Senate**

No report.

### **Undergraduate Student Senate**

No report.

### **Graduate and Professional Student Senate**

No report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

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

- University Athletics Committee – Dan Thorp

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 PM.

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