

## MINUTES

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025  
3:00 PM  
Via Zoom**

**Present** – J. Tokuhisa (presiding); E. Austin; A. Ball; J. Bedore; M. Caddick; S. Clements; K. Goyne; M. Kimbrell; M. Pleimling; R. Poff; L. Ricci (representing Undergraduate Student Senate); S. Rinehart; J. Sible; N. Smith (representing K. Thompson); R. Sparks

**Absent with Notice:** N. Akers; S. Over; S. Sumner; K. Thompson; D. Thorp; K. Tran

**Absent:** M. Acosta; Z. Altizer; K. Edgar; C. Ruktanonchai; J. Russell; M. Seref

**Guests:** C. Akers; R. Lucas; E. Moon; A. Myers; R. Pitcher; L. Rose; K. Wells

J. Tokuhisa called the meeting to order at 3:04. 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

J. Tokuhisa noted that the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Office of the University Registrar's website: <http://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html>

### 3. Opening Remarks

J. Sible emphasized the critical role of CUSP in evaluating institutional policies that impact student success and well-being. The university is currently focused on two major goals: aligning with Global Distinction criteria and making strategic decisions to support the VT Advantage initiative. As a land-grant institution, Virginia Tech remains committed to affordability, particularly for PELL-eligible students, and ensuring equitable access to experiential learning opportunities for all students.

### 4. Unfinished Business

#### **CUSP 2025-2026B – Resolution Updating the Foreign Language Requirement (1st Reading)**

L. Ricci shared that student senators expressed concerns about enforcing the foreign language requirement at the time of admission, particularly for out-of-state students who may not have this requirement in their home states. R. Sparks clarified that the admissions process is self-reported so students would have time to meet admissions criteria before enrollment. There is a process where students who do not meet requirements before enrollment have their admission offers revoked, but this is a miniscule number of students. When discussing the movement of this requirement with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, they did not anticipate any barriers for incoming students.

The resolution will be presented to the Faculty Senate on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 for first reading. Feedback will be collected and submitted for second reading at the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## 5. New Business

### **Discussion – CUSP 2025-2026A Resolution Affirming Administration Action Under Exigent Circumstances**

J. Tokuhisa provided context for the resolution, explaining that it was initiated following a decision made by the President. The resolution was drafted by the Office of Policy and Governance in response to a Resolution from the Board of Visitors, which itself was a reaction to an Executive Order and a Dear Colleague Letter issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

J. Sible clarified that there is an opportunity to revise the Whereas statements within the document. During the meeting, two revisions were proposed. The first involved removing references to specific courses associated with Pathways Concept 7. The second suggested eliminating mention of the Academic Resource Alignment Committee, as the decision had not been reviewed by that group.

N. Smith asked whether this was an immediate or future implementation. R. Sparks clarified that when the resolution is passed, its impact will be immediate. However, it will not affect the current year's program requirements submission. For students who have not yet fulfilled the requirement, exceptions will likely be used to accommodate them.

There were questions regarding the permanence of the decision. At this time, the resolution represents a temporary suspension of the requirement. The policy will continue to be assessed, and the requirement may either be reinstated or permanently removed in the future.

The draft resolution will be sent to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for General Education for comment noting the two revisions that have been suggested by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies. Comments will be gathered at the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 UCCGE meeting, and they will be reported at the next CUSP meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## 6. Reports

- Academic Support Committee – Vacant: No report.
- Academic Policies Committee – Michel Pleimling: The meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> will discuss changes to Policy 6815.
- Athletics Committee – Dan Thorp: The committee is currently drafting a missed class policy for student athletes.
- Commencement Committee – Monica Kimbell: No report.
- Honor Council – Zoe Altizer: No report.
- Library Committee – Sarah Over: No report.
- University Curriculum Committee for General Education – Khanh Ngoc Tran: No report.

## 7. Constituent Reports

- Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate – Nicole Akers: No report.
- Staff Senate – Misti Acosta: No report.
- Faculty Senate – Vacant: No report.
- Undergraduate Student Senate – L. Ricci: No report.
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate – Vacant: No report.

## **8. Other Items**

- Nomination/Review of CUSP Sub-Committee Chair and Representatives for Academic Year 2025-2026. J. Tokuhisa reiterated the need for an Academic Support Committee chair.

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:10.