MINUTES

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
October 13th, 2025
3:00 PM
Via Zoom

Present – J. Tokuhisa (presiding); M. Acosta; E. Austin; A. Ball; J. Bedore; M. Caddick; S. Clements; S. Dip; R. Gaines; K. Goyne; M. Kimbrell; S. Over; M. Pleimling; L. Ricci; J. Russell; M. Seref; J. Sible; S. Sumner; K. Thompson; D. Thorp

Absent with Notice: N. Akers; R. Poff; S. Rinehart; R. Sparks

Absent: K. Edgar; C. Ruktanonchai; Z. Altizer

Guests: E. Anderson; J. Gallagher; J. Leech; V. Nguyen; R. Pitcher; L. Rose; K. Tran; Z. Tucker

J. Tokuhisa called the meeting to order at 3:02. 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 22nd, 2025.**

   J. Tokuhisa noted that the September 22nd, 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. **Unfinished Business**

CUSP 2025-2026B – Resolution Updating the Foreign Language Requirement (2nd Reading)
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. J. Tokuhisa provided a summary of the changes made to the resolution. A new addition was made that the university would monitor these changes to ensure there are no adverse effects for students applying to Virginia Tech. Motion passed. J. Tokuhisa shared that the resolution will now move to faculty senate.

Update – Draft CUSP 2025-2026A Resolution Affirming Administration Action Under Exigent Circumstances
J. Sible provided a summary of University Council discussion regarding T. Sands' stance that this resolution will mitigate risk to the university. K. Tran reported that the UCCGE is still reviewing the resolution and hoped to have options to present in the coming weeks. J. Sible shared that associate deans and advisors have been given instructions on implementing the suspension and are encouraged to share any problems they are encountering. The topic was then opened for general discussion. D. Thorp stated that 5 units in his college have requested CUSP to reject the resolution and clarified that the units were opposed to the actions of the university and not specifically federal policy. S. Clements suggested a broad exploration-themed pathway topic that would incorporate a variety of subjects. K. Tran echoed that UCCGE requests that whatever replaces Pathways 7 be broad enough to accommodate existing Pathways 7 courses. R. Gaines asked if the university could lift the suspension until a replacement has been designed and if T. Sands is under pressure from the BOV to suspend Pathways 7. J. Tokuhisa clarified that the BOV gave deadlines for reporting compliance in the resolution, and the exigent nature of the resolution

made reversing the suspension unlikely. The Provost gave broad latitude to CUSP and CGPSP to accept, modify or reject the draft resolution: "UC Minutes Oct. 6, 2025: Provost Clarke advised that CUSP and CGPSP may draft resolutions that affirm or oppose the President's action under exigent circumstances principles; commissions should avoid simply repackaging DEI elements in ways, which will increase institutional risk, and instead focus on retaining non-DEI-related, high-value components that would be considered compliant. Provost Clarke expressed confidence in the commissions' collective judgment and emphasized the debate-and-revise nature of shared governance." J. Gallagher added that UCCGE opposes the resolution as well as how it was implemented, referenced the work that was necessary in creating Pathways, and shared that some students were dismayed by the message that the suspension has sent. J. Tokuhisa concluded the discussion by stating UCCGE will continue researching and potentially submit a resolution revision. The current resolution was drafted by the Office of Policy and Governance as a starting point and CUSP can continue to edit the document as the discussion continues.

4. **New Business**

Presentation – Policy 6815 Revision Draft
M. Pleimling presented the Academic Policies Committee's recommendations for revisions to Policy 6815. The main points of revision center on the Senior Residency Rule, Double Majors/Second Degrees, and general language updates. The Committee recommends replacing the Senior Residency Rule with a requirement to complete 25% of total required credits at Virginia Tech and removing all instances of "in residence." The Committee also recommends adding a restriction that "students cannot earn multiple degrees under the same degree program" to Section 2.1.3. This revision would still allow multiple majors under one degree program. The Committee also recommends general language updates throughout the policy so that it aligns with current practices and procedures. R. Gaines requested a stipulation that major requirements be completed at Virginia Tech and suggested student athletes may be impacted by the 25% requirement if they are only at Virginia Tech for a year. M. Pleimling noted that due to state and university policies, there are limits on how many credits can be transferred into Virginia Tech. J. Sible added that most high-level courses do not transfer over to Virginia Tech and that student athletes are not receiving a high volume of upper-level transfer credits. M. Pleimling concluded that the committee hopes to have a first draft revision of the policy ready in two weeks.

5. **Reports**

- Academic Support Committee – Vacant: No report.
- Academic Policies Committee – Michel Pleimling: A motion was made to accept the September 23rd, 2025 and October 2nd, 2025 minutes. The motion was approved.
- Athletics Committee – Dan Thorp: No report.
- Commencement Committee – Monica Kimbell: The committee met for the first time. Topics focused on Fall Commencement. Official calls for volunteers will come in November.
- Honor Council – Zoe Altizer: No report.
- Library Committee – Sarah Over: No report.
- University Curriculum Committee for General Education – Khanh Ngoc Tran: The committee discussed the Resolution Affirming Administration Action Under Exigent Circumstances.
- Constituent Reports – Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate – Nicole Akers: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Staff Senate – Misti Acosta: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Faculty Senate – R. Gaines: The senate met for the first time and several resolutions were presented. The University believes itself to be in a good position with a good credit rating despite a projected decrease in funds received. T. Sands addressed the Faculty Senate and has shared a belief that the university will continue to grow.

- Constituent Reports – Undergraduate Student Senate – L. Ricci: The Dean of Students visited the Undergraduate Student Senate and newly elected members were sworn in.
- Constituent Reports: Graduate and Professional Student Senate – S. Dip: The senate reviewed several climate surveys.

6. 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 representative. S. Clements volunteered for the position. If he is eligible, a form vote will be conducted during the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:06.