

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution Affirming Administration Action Under Exigent Circumstances
CUSP 2025-26A

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet	September 8, 2025
First Reading by Commission	Date
Approval by Commission	Date
First Reading by Senate	Date
Approval by Senate	Date
Staff Senate Comment	Date
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	Date
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	Date
First Reading, University Council	Date
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Effective Date	Upon Approval or Date

WHEREAS, legal and compliance risks arising from new federal regulatory requirements coupled with the Board of Visitors' DEI resolution passed on March 25, 2025, created an exigent circumstance requiring the university leadership to act quickly to eliminate or adjust a number of university programs and services, including some changes to academic programs; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech's "Principles of Shared Governance" incorporated in the University Council Constitution and Bylaws state, in part: ". . . [I]n the rare instances exigent circumstances require university leaders to act outside the structure of shared governance, they will explain the exigent circumstances and discuss the action or actions taken in open forums and in a timely manner. . ."; and

WHEREAS, to honor and fulfill those principles, President Sands informed University Council Cabinet of university action taken to suspend Pathways Core Concept 7: Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States pending outcome of the review of all Pathways concepts currently under way as part of the Academic Resource Alignment process. Accordingly, the following policies and resolutions are also suspended: [PPM 299: Addressing Intersectional Diversity in Pathways Curriculum](#) and accompanying [Resolution CEOD 2015-16C](#), PPM 290-Revision 1: Resolution to Revise Pathways General Education Curriculum* and accompanying [Resolution CUSP 2016-17G](#). (such that the original PPM 290 issued April 6, 2015, is in effect); and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2025, University Council Cabinet approved a motion to affirm the administration's decision to suspend Pathways Core Concept 7 and associated resolutions and policies, and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies and Faculty Senate recommend that University Council do the same; and

WHEREAS, Pathways Core Concept 7 positions students to develop and apply critical analysis skills to the depth and breadth of human experiences in the United States, and students may choose from over 100 approved courses, most of which simultaneously fulfill other Pathways concepts (as listed on pages 9 and 10 of the [Pathways Course Guide](#)); and

WHEREAS, Degree Audit Data show that 44% of students meet the Concept 7 outcomes through high school Advanced Placement or other transfer credit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that University Council affirms the administration's decision to suspend Pathways Core Concept 7: Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States and associated resolutions and policies pending outcome of the review of all Pathways concepts.