

MINUTES

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
November 10th, 2025
3:00 PM
Via Zoom**

Present: J. Tokuhisa (presiding); E. Austin; A. Ball; J. Bedore; M. Caddick; S. Clements; R. Gaines; K. Goynes; M. Kimbrell; S. Over; M. Pleimling; R. Poff; L. Ricci; S. Rinehart; J. Russell; J. Sible; R. Sparks; K. Thompson; D. Thorp

Absent with Notice: N. Akers

Absent: M. Acosta; Z. Altizer; S. Dip; K. Edgar; C. Middleton; C. Ruktanonchai; M. Seref; S. Sumner

Guests: B. Edwards; J. Gallagher; E. Moon; V. Nguyen; R. Pitcher; L. Rose; N. Smith; N. Tran; Z. Tucker; K. Wells

J. Tokuhisa called the meeting to order at 3:01. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 27th, 2025.

The October 27th, 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 2025-2026A Resolution Affirming Administration Action Under Exigent Circumstances

J. Tokuhisa shared the information that he gave the Faculty Senate to explain the resolution and ease faculty concerns, then invited N. Tran to discuss UCCGE's work. UCCGE opposes the action but acknowledges the suspension and reviewed five possible response options, ultimately deciding to revise Pathways 7 with a proposal to be presented in December. The presentation will include a timeline, with revisions incorporated into the full Pathways review scheduled for 2026. J. Gallagher noted UCCGE is offering suggestions to CUSP, while CUSP will make the final decision. J. Sible thanked UCCGE for its efforts.

4. New Business

CUSP 2025-26C – Updating Policy 6815 (First Reading)

M. Pleimling summarized the need to update the policy, noting it has not been revised in twenty-five years and is outdated. The goal is to formalize common practice, as senior residency is no longer standard. A motion was made to accept the resolution as posted, followed by discussion. S. Rinehart supported the update.

CUSP 2025-26D – Revise PPM 107 Midterm Assessment of Undergraduate Students (First Reading)

R. Sparks outlined the resolution, noting it reflects ideas from the last meeting. The revision replaces S/U grades with the student's actual course grade and requires the Registrar's office to provide a list of the students that require midterm grades. D. Thorp asked what happens if faculty do not submit a grade. R. Sparks confirmed students would receive an NR ("Not Reported"), consistent with current practice.

5. Reports

- Academic Support Committee – S. Clements: The committee will first meet before the end of the year to discuss the potential two-day fall break. S. Clements asked if any changes to the academic calendar could take effect next year, or if it would have to wait for two years from now. R. Sparks clarified that it depends on the nature of the change and when the decision is made, both of which could delay implementation.
- Academic Policies Committee – M. Pleimling: No report.
- Athletics Committee – D. Thorp: No report.
- Commencement Committee – M. Kimbrell: Focused on Fall commencement and reminders were sent out to colleges for volunteers.
- Honor Council – Z. Altizer: No report.
- Library Committee – S. Over: No report.
- University Curriculum Committee for General Education – K. Tran: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate – N. Akers: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Staff Senate – M. Acosta: No report.
- Constituent Reports – Faculty Senate – S. Clements, R. Gaines: Faculty Senate held a second reading of faculty handbook revisions, including grievance procedures, instructor ranks, and academic realignment. Additional topics included federal funding cuts and recording in classroom.
- Constituent Reports – Undergraduate Student Senate – L. Ricci, C. Middleton: Parking presented data to the student senate. A new quiz allows students to waive their first parking ticket if they score 90% or higher. Transfer and first-year students noted unfamiliarity with campus and state traffic laws upon arrival. Parking acknowledged most first tickets are for minor infractions.
- Constituent Reports – Graduate and Professional Student Senate – S. Dip: No report.

6. Other Items

- R. Gaines presented questions that had been submitted to him from his department [HNFE]. Questions included: what are the transfer credit limitations and policies and where does the credit hour requirement come from? R. Sparks explained that revising 6815 would remove the in-residency requirement but retain the 25% credits-at-Virginia-Tech rule. R. Sparks further

clarified that all degree requirements must still be met, and the changes do not alter those categories. Identifying that the questions were policy-specific, it was resolved that the list of questions should be sent to R. Sparks to answer after the meeting.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 PM.