

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
February 22, 2016
230 Student Services Building, 3:00 PM

PRESENT: G. Chandler-Smith (Chair); R. Ashton; J. Baker; J. Brozovsky; C. Clemenz for R. Sumichrast; K. Gilbertson for M. Finn; M. Hajj; S. Hirt; R. Holloway; G. Jones; A.M. Knoblauch; G. Long for L. Nam Chang; S. Martin; C. Mitchell; A. Myers-Burton; K. Rawlings; J. Sible; D. Smith; S. Sumner for A. Grant; D. Thorp for E. Spiller; B. Watford for R. Benson; E. Wiseman; G. Yee; A. Zink-Sharp

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: L. Geyer; Z. Montgomery; K. Redican for C. Clarke

ABSENT WITHOUT NOTIFICATION: H. Thomas

VISITORS: S. Biscotte, A. Matthiessen; M. Pratt-Clarke; R. Sparks; G. Costello; G. Kinder; J. Sanders

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Gena Chandler-Smith, Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda to allow Menah Pratt-Clarke, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Vice President for Strategic Affairs, to provide remarks to the Commission. The motion to approve the agenda, as amended, passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL AND POSTING OF MINUTES

G. Chandler-Smith announced the February 8, 2016 minutes were electronically approved and can be accessed via the University Registrar's website:
<http://www.registrar.vt.edu/documents/governance/2015-2016/CUSP-Minutes-Feb-8-16.pdf>.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-2016.I, Resolution to *Adopt the Implementation of the Pathways General Education Curriculum to Guide the Implementation of Resolution 2014-15.H (Resolution to Revise Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125)*, Second Reading.

The motion was made and seconded to present for second reading Resolution 2015-16.I, Resolution to *Adopt the Implementation of the Pathways General Education Curriculum to Guide the Implementation of Resolution 2014-15.H (Resolution to Revise Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125)*.

Chair G. Chandler-Smith opened the floor for discussion on Resolution 2015-2016.I.

G. Yee brought forth the following friendly amendment: “The College of Science moves approval for amendment of Resolution 2015-2016.I, Resolution to *Adopt the Implementation of the Pathways General Education Curriculum to Guide the Implementation of Resolution 2014-15.H (Resolution to Revise Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125)* as follows:

‘Section VI Assessment, C. Faculty Decision-Making

Remove the following text:

For example, in larger classes, selected items from multiple-choice tests might be an appropriate way to gather information on student competence.

Section VI Assessment, D. Faculty Reporting

Add the following text after the first paragraph:

For classes/sections with more than 20 students, an instructor may choose, with the approval of their department head/chair, to report indicator ranking data for a random sample of 20 students chosen at the end of the semester from the class list using a computerized randomization mechanism.

All students would complete the same assignments, but the work of these 20 students would then be reviewed in-depth by the instructor specifically for evidence of competence for each of the relevant indicators. Then the instructors will report the rankings of competence this results in, summarized into percentages for each indicator, along with the total class size.”

UCCGE Representative J. Brozovsky accepted the friendly amendment to Resolution 2015-2016.I, as proposed by G. Yee.

The motion was made and seconded to **APPROVE** the friendly amendment to Resolution 2015-2016.I, Resolution to *Adopt the Implementation of the Pathways General Education Curriculum to Guide the Implementation of Resolution 2014-15.H (Resolution to Revise Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125)*

Chair G. Chandler-Smith opened the floor for discussion on the friendly amendment to Resolution 2015-2016.I.

Discussion and clarification topics included the following:

- Clarification on decision to use 20 students as the required sample size
- Clarification on procedure for sampling classes of less than 20 students

Hearing no further questions/discussion, Chair G. Chandler-Smith called for a vote on the friendly amendment to Resolution 2015-2016.I.

Motion passed unanimously.

The motion was made and seconded to **APPROVE** Resolution 2015-2016.I, Resolution to *Adopt the Implementation of the Pathways General Education Curriculum to Guide the Implementation of Resolution 2014-15.H (Resolution to Revise Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125)*, as amended.

Chair G. Chandler-Smith opened the floor for discussion on Resolution 2015-2016.I.

J. Baker shared the letter written by the Faculty Senate summarizing their review and comments regarding the resolution.

Hearing no further questions/discussion, Chair G. Chandler-Smith called for a vote on Resolution 2015-2016.I.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-2016.J, *Revision to Prohibiting Students from Repeating Courses to Improve Grade Averages (Undergraduate Repeating Course Enrollment Policy)*, First Reading.

The motion was made and seconded to present for first reading Resolution 2015-2016.J, *Revision to Prohibiting Students from Repeating Courses to Improve Grade Averages (Undergraduate Repeating Course Enrollment Policy)*.

Chair G. Chandler-Smith opened the floor for discussion on Resolution 2015-2016.J.

Discussion and clarification topics included the following:

- Rationale for revision of this policy
 - Factors related to resource allocation
 - Factors related to student performance
- Potential impacts to students
 - Impact on underrepresented students
 - Impact on progress towards degree
 - Impact of “Last Day to Add Classes” as enrollment threshold for what is considered an attempt
- Potential impacts to advisors
 - Need for detailed reporting of students impacted by this policy
 - Need for advisor intervention strategy

- Policy Support
 - Overview by Office of the University Registrar on tracking students' repeat courses and reporting to advisors
 - Means of informing students of policy
 - Student appeals process

- Request for additional data related to:
 - Student demographics (race/ethnicity, athletes)
 - Level of courses being repeated

Resolution 2015-2016.J has been forwarded to Faculty Senate for comment. Following the Faculty Senate review and response, the second reading of Resolution 2015-2016.J will take place at the next available CUSP meeting.

REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES/SUB -COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Support Committee

No Report.

Academic Policies Committee

B. Watford reported that the Academic Policies Committee is working to bring forth a resolution for CUSP consideration regarding Independent Study/Undergraduate Research.

Athletic Committee

No Report.

Commencement Committee

No Report.

Honor System Review Board

No Report.

Library Committee

No Report.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

No Report.

Undergraduate Studies and Policies

R. Ashton reported for H. Thomas that the Undergraduate Studies and Policies Committee continues to work on the Open Education Link.

University Curriculum Committee for General Education

No Report.

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

No Report.

Staff Senate

No Report.

Faculty Senate

J. Baker reported that the Faculty Senate is currently reviewing a proposal for the establishment of an ombudsman. The Faculty Senate is also reviewing the creation of new Faculty categories.

Student Government Association

No Report.

Graduate Student Assembly

No Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Vice President for Strategic Affairs, M. Pratt-Clarke, provided brief remarks to the Commission regarding her role at the University and her vision for the integration of diversity and global awareness throughout the Implementation of the Pathways to General Education Curriculum. Topics of her remarks included the following:

- Commendation of the UCCGE and other stakeholders for their work to develop the Pathways to General Education Curriculum Implementation
- Desire for integration of diversity and inclusion throughout the Pathways to General Education Curriculum in support of:
 - Equipping students with cultural competencies related to issues of race, religion, sexual orientation, and global awareness.
 - Equipping students with the tools and skills needed to succeed in a global community
 - Integration of diversity and inclusion into professional development opportunities to better equip faculty to provide diversity education to students

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin D. Sanders
Office of the University Registrar