

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
October 26, 2015
230 STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING, 3:00 PM.

Present: G. Chandler-Smith (Chair); R. Ashton; J. Baker; S. Biscotte for J. Sible; J. Brozovsky; C. Clemenz for R. Sumichrast; M. Finn; C. Franklin for A. Myers-Burton; L. Geyer; M. Hajj; B. Hila; G. Jones; A. M. Knoblauch; G. Long for Lay Nam Chang; S. Martin; C. Mitchell; J. Orr for R. Holloway; D. Smith; R. Stephens for E. Spiller; S. Sumner for Alan Grant; H. Thomas; B. Watford for R. Benson; E. Wiseman; G. Yee; A. Zink-Sharp.

Absent with Notification: Z. Montgomery; K. Rawlings

Absent without Notification: C. Clarke; S. Hirt

Visitors: R. Dalloul; C. Lyles; P. Young; G. Costello; G. Kinder

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 adopt the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Announcement of Approval and Posting of Minutes

Gena Chandler-Smith announced the Oct. 12, 2015 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-Oct-12-15.pdf>

Reports and Minutes from Commission Committees/Sub-Committees

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Support Committee

No Report

- Academic Policies Committee

B. Watford reported three issues being considered by committee:

(1) Repeat Course Policy

(2) Independent Study Policy

(3) Experiential Learning – Credit for non-classroom experiences

- Athletic Committee

No Report

- Commencement Committee

Candice Clemenz presented the minutes of the University Commencement Committee meetings of April 1, 2015 and May 6, 2015. Motion was made and seconded to accept the University Commencement Committee minutes of April 1, 2015 and May 6, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Honors System Review Board**

C. Franklin presented that two new Associate Justices have been selected.

- **Library Committee**

M. Finn presented the minutes of the University Library Committee meeting of September 28, 2015. Motion was made and seconded to accept the University Library Committee minutes of September 28, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**

S. Martin announced the report of the University Curriculum Committee meeting of October 16, 2015 was approved electronically Oct. 23, 2015.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Report of Oct. 16, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

UCC Report - Oct. 16, 2015

For “First and Second Reading”

Unanimous Approval

Courses

New:

Spring 2016

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

FST 2044 (PSCI 2044) (IS 2044) Food, War and Conflict (CM-2342)

HORT 2834 Sustainable Agriculture Practicum (CM-2296)

College of Engineering

BSE 3534 Bioprocess Engineering (CM-2344)

BSE 4564 Metabolic Engineering (CM-2345)

CS 1014 Introduction to Computational Thinking (CM-2346)

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

COMM 3314 Sports Journalism (CM-2363)

COMM 4174 Digital Advocacy Campaigns (CM-2362)

College of Natural Resources and Environment

SBIO 4424 (CHEM 4424) Polysaccharide Chemistry (CM-2300)

College of Science

NEUR 3144 Mechanisms of Learning and Memory (CM-2370)

Pamplin College of Business

FIN 4275-4276 Analytics for Equity Securities and Portfolio Management (CM-2349)

Revised:

Spring 2016

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

COMM 2084 Media and Society (CM-2361)

College of Science

NEUR 4034 Diseases of the Nervous System (CM-2372)

- Undergraduate Studies and Policies

No Report.

- University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education

John Brozovsky presented the minutes of the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education dated Oct. 7, 2015 to the commission. Motion was made and seconded to accept the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education minutes of Oct. 7, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

John Brozovsky presented the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education report dated Oct. 7, 2015 to the commission. Motion was made and seconded to approve the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education report of Oct. 7, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Report

University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education Oct. 7, 2015

For Approval:

HIST 1215 – 1216 Introduction to World History (Areas 3 and 7): Effective as of Fall 2015.

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

- **Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**

No report.

- **Staff Senate**

No report.

- **Faculty Senate**

J. Baker presented that two topics are being discussed:

1. Beyond Boundaries initiative
2. Pathways (General Education) implementation

- **Student Government Association**

No Report.

- **Graduate Student Assembly**

No Report.

Other Business

Faculty Senate presentation on the proposed resolution on shared governance – R. Dalloul thanked CUSP for their willingness to consider the Faculty Senate Resolution on Shared Governance. R. Dalloul deferred to R. Young, representative of Faculty Senate, to provide overview the resolution.

Overview of resolution provided by R. Young:

- Proposed changes for role of faculty in governance the result of two years of work by faculty senate.
- Presented that faculty are concerned that they are not presently in the review chain of the governance procedures.
- Shared that about 25 peer institutions were contacted, and that it was concluded that role of faculty in governance at those universities differed greatly from the VT faculty.
- Process also included a review of 1966 American Association of University Professors (AAUP), American Council on Education (ACE), and Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) joint statement to address shared governance.
- Proposed changes were discussed with university President and Provost.
- Currently proposed resolution is being reviewed at potentially impacted commissions to gain their input/feedback (i.e., Commission on Faculty Affairs, Commission on Research, Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, and Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies).
- Faculty believes that their early and frequent involvement in governance will add value to the process.
- Proposing a 4-week turnaround period for faculty to allow for strongest possible resolutions, more efficient governance, and reduced dissention at University Council and BOV meetings.

- Reviewed recent revisions to resolution base on Commission on Faculty Affairs review:
 - “Whereas, the overwhelming response of faculty surveyed...” was deleted.
 - “Whereas, a formal mechanism of consultation...” edited to change the word “efficiency” to “inclusiveness”.

Chair G. Chandler-Smith opened the floor for discussion on Resolution on Shared Governance.

Summary of commission discussion topics:

- Commission Resolution Review Process Concern–
 - Concern that the CFA was only planning to review resolution with four commissions, and that the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity was not included in review process.

Faculty Representing Resolution Discussion Topic Feedback–

- Noted that identified four commission were determined based on recognition that these commissions have the greatest overall potential to impact faculty affairs.
- Staff Senate will consider further discussion with Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

- Commission Governance Process Duplication Concerns–
 - Noted that current governance structure allows for about 15 faculty representatives to contribute to governance process.
 - Presenting that Faculty Senate already hold membership on commissions led to question as to how approval of resolution would assure greater engagement by faculty senators as representatives to commissions.
 - Concern that in many instances it has been observed that Faculty Senate members on commission represent personal views and not the views of their constituents.
 - Recommended that consideration be given to changes to Faculty Senate by-laws to address function and responsibilities of senators, rather than approval of the policy proposed by the resolution.

Faculty Representing Resolution Discussion Topic Feedback–

- Intent is to encouraged and create more opportunities for communication as early as possible in the governance process across the various bodies involved in issues.

- Commission Governance Process Concerns–
 - Reference to 1966 AAUP policy seemed weak and possibly dated.
 - Noting that policy provides for Faculty Senate to attach position letter to resolution, concern raised related to impact and influence letter of disagreement accompanying resolution during BOV and SCHEV review.
 - Given that Faculty Senate has a representative vote at UC and that proposed policy would provide Faculty Senate the opportunity to attach position letter to resolution, concern that addition of letter duplicates Faculty Senate position at University Council.

- Concerns that additional review process by Faculty Senate would delay, an already time sensitive process, review and approval of new degree proposals.

Faculty Representing Resolution Discussion Topic Feedback–

- Clarification provided that 1966 policy is last recorded policy position on faculty role in governance.
- Presented that letter presenting Faculty Senate position would accompany the resolution, when sent to University Council and BOV.
- Faculty Senate involvement seen as parallel process, not an interruption to governance process (e.g., Honor Code policy revisions – Faculty Senate’s letter of endorsement).
- Faculty Senate has developed a cabinet structure, and four sub-committees, to aid in review of resolutions.
- President’s office is considering development of a task force to examine governance.
- Point made that proposed structure is more proactive toward a positive information flow.

- Commission Editorial Comment–

- Point raised that resolution document refers to SCHEV as “State Council of Higher Education in Virginia,” the title of SCHEV should be corrected to read, “State Council of Higher Education for Virginia”.

Faculty Representing Resolution Discussion Topic Feedback–

- Resolution will be revised to read, “State Council of Higher Education for Virginia”.

Hearing no further questions/discussion, Chair G. Chandler-Smith presented the options available to the commission – a non-binding vote to approve the resolution, a non-binding vote to disapprove the resolution, or take no action.

Motion was moved and seconded, to **DISAPPROVE** Resolution on Shared Governance.

Motion to **DISAPPROVE** Resolution on Shared Governance passed: **Yes: (12), No: (9), Abstain: (3).**

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary S. Kinder
Office of the University Registrar