

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
3:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: D. Zahm (presiding); K. Goyne; R. Holloway; S. Huxtable; M. Kimbrell; N. Nassan; V. Nguyen; G. Novack; S. Over; M. Pleimling; K. Redican; M. Seref for L. Khansa; N. Smith for K. Thompson; N. Staley; S. Sumner; K. Swaby; J. Tokuhisa; K. Tran; A. Zink-Sharp

ABSENT: K. Albright; K. Edgar; S. Ganapuram; C. Ruktanonchai; S. Shupe; D. Thorp; R. Waheed

GUESTS: L. Buchanan; R. Pitcher; B. Smith; R. Sparks

D. Zahm called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

D. Zahm outlined the charge of the Commission for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, as well as goals for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

- Charge of the Commission for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Charge: To study, formulate, and recommend to the Faculty Senate policies and procedures concerning undergraduate academic matters. Areas for consideration include library resources, admissions, academic progress, degree requirements, the Undergraduate Honor System and study environment, including approval of changes to the Undergraduate Honor Code; In-Honors programs, undergraduate curricular standards and expectations, advising, and instruction; student honors and awards; financial aid, scheduling, and registration.

Goals for the 2023-2024 Academic Year:

- Conduct the business of the Commission using student success as a guiding principle.
- Review at least one academic policy and propose modifications as needed to ensure that policy is not creating barriers for student success.
- Identify opportunities to improve engagement with the Faculty Senate.
- Collaborate with other Commissions as needed.

- R. Sparks, R. Holloway and D. Zahm presented “Building a Student-Centered University.”
 - Topics included Student Success Metrics as part of the VT Strategic Plan, holistic and experiential education, finding and removing barriers, and how the Commission can improve undergraduate academic success.
 - Commission members suggested the following areas to review in an effort to remove institutional barriers: progress to degree, W grade policy, budget model and the effect on undergraduate student learning opportunities, probation and suspension policy, timing of midterm grades notifications, and financial aid.

APPROVAL OF OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL AND POSTING OF MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2023

D. Zahm noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

APPROVAL OF OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL AND POSTING OF REPORTS

D. Zahm noted that the Reports listed below were electronically approved and can be accessed via the University Registrar’s website (<http://www.registrar.vt.edu/governance.html>).

- Pathways General Education Curriculum Review Committee Report (April 12, 2023)
- Pathways General Education Curriculum Review Committee Report (April 26, 2023)
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Report (April 28, 2023)

ACCEPTANCE AND POSTING OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEES/SUB -COMMITTEES REPORTS AND/OR MINUTES

Academic Support Committee

No report.

Academic Policies Committee

No report.

Athletics Committee

No report.

Commencement Committee

No report.

Honor Council

N. Nassan informed Commission members that delegate and panel training has been completed.

Library Committee

No report.

University Curriculum Committee for General Education

No report.

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

No report.

Staff Senate

No report.

Faculty Senate

No report.

Undergraduate Student Senate

No report.

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nominations of CUSP Sub-Committee Chairs and Representatives For Academic Year 2023-2024

The following individual accepted the nomination to serve as Chair and Representative of CUSP Sub-Committees for Academic Year 2023-2024:

- Academic Support Committee
 - Commission will revisit at the September 25 meeting.
- University Athletics Committee
 - Commission will revisit at the September 25 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:54 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Becki Smith, Office of the University Registrar*