

## MINUTES

### COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Board Room - Burruss Hall  
October 10, 1983 - 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. D. P. Roselle, Chairman; Dr. P. L. Hall, Secretary; Dr. E. W. Carson; Dr. A. G. Phlegar; Deans Bonham, Ford, Gray, Green, Harris, Purdy and Simutis; Senators Barnett, Cook and Yongue; Professors Howard, Krebs, Lovingood, Parrish, Riess and Sherman; Student Representatives Curll, Driskill, Goulson and Thomas.

ABSENT: Professor Beams.

VISITORS: Ms. Susan Trulove (Spectrum); Dr. Landrum Cross (Student Affairs); and Dr. Ronald J. Nurse (Honors Program).

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Announcements - Dr. Roselle.

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. and Dr. Roselle welcomed the members of CUS to the first meeting of the 1983-84 academic year. At Dr. Roselle's request, Dr. Hall reported to the Commission on the current status of the Core Curriculum. Dr. Hall distributed copies of a memorandum he had sent to deans, directors and department heads, outlining guidelines and suggestions assembled over the summer by the Core Curriculum Area Committees for the purpose of approving existing courses, sequences and clusters for use in the core curriculum initially. Dr. Hall also described briefly a Request for Proposals that would soon go out to departments, offering some modest support in the form of faculty released time or summer stipends and support personnel salaries and wages to underwrite the pursuit of entirely new activities directed at enrichment of the core curriculum.

Dr. Roselle also described a "faculty literacy" effort being undertaken this year by the Computer Science Department. This is being supported by the same State Council of Higher Education in Virginia funds that will support the core enrichment activities mentioned above.

Dr. Roselle then announced that he would ask the Commission at its earliest opportunity to re-examine the policy which defines the time allowed at the beginning of each quarter in which students may drop classes without penalty. He noted that the Assistant Deans' Group had already given some thought to the matter and were willing to entertain such a discussion.

Finally Dr. Roselle suggested that the Commission adopt the practice of proceeding with a "consent agenda," in which certain items, indicated with an asterisk, might have tacit approval unless there were an expressed desire on the part of a Commission member to discuss the item. "Consent" items would include such things as the adoption of the agenda, the approval of the minutes, and the acknowledgment of routine reports. No one raised any objection to proceeding in that manner.

2. The Agenda was adopted as distributed.
3. The Minutes of the CUS meeting for May 27, 1983 were approved as distributed.
4. Report on Summer Orientation:

Dr. Ronald J. Nurse briefly summarized the main points of the report which had been circulated with the agenda. Dr. Landrum Cross added a few comments on his own, and then the co-chairmen asked if there were comments or questions. It was pointed out that page 11 of the report contained an error. It referred to the College of Home Economics instead of the College of Human Resources. Dr. Roselle mentioned the possibility of assessing writing skills in summer orientation for the purpose of placing students in appropriate Freshman English sections. A brief discussion followed on the implications of doing so.

5. Committee Reports:

Dr. Lewis Barnett requested that the report of the Honor System Review Board be put on an agenda of the CUS in the near future. Dr. Roselle, to whom the report was originally addressed, agreed.

6. Deletion of Untaught Courses from the Catalog:

University policy, adopted by the University Council in 1979, provides for deletion from the Graduate Catalog of any graduate courses that have not been taught for three years previous. The purpose is to make the catalog represent accurately to a prospective graduate student what courses are actually available in programs that might be of interest. The question is, should a similar policy govern the undergraduate catalog? The sense of the ensuing discussion was that the Registrar should send a list of untaught courses to deans and department heads asking which of the courses should be deleted from the list of approved courses, which should be kept as approved courses but deleted for now from the catalog listing, and which should be continued in the catalog even though they weren't being taught. It may well be that this approach will address the matter satisfactorily without requiring any addition to University policy.

7. New Agenda Items for 1983-84:

Dean Justin Green transmitted to the Commission the request of Dean Bauer that a CUS committee be formed to examine the implications of the imminent requirement that all students entering the College of Engineering purchase personal computers.

There were no other suggestions for new agenda items.

8. Other Business:

Dr. Roselle and Dr. Hall reported to the Commission on the sense of Council deliberations at the first reading of the proposed new admissions require-

ments resolution which took place at University Council meeting on October 3. Three questions had been raised by members of the University Council in that discussion. (1) How did the 163 students who would not have been admitted in 1982 actually do academically after they enrolled? (2) How are those 163 students distributed amongst the Colleges? (3) Are there high schools in the State of Virginia (especially small schools in rural areas) that are not able to offer the required courses?

Dr. Carson is preparing responses to those questions. It is already apparent that all accredited high schools in the State do offer the needed courses. That is to say, if there are any high schools in the State which could not offer the courses, they are private high schools without Virginia accreditation.

9. Adjournment - 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip L. Hall  
Secretary

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