

*Accepted: 0, 7, 8, 9* *Approved Jan 5, '81*

MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

November 10, 1980 - 3:00 p.m.  
Board Room - Burruss Hall

PRESENT: Dr. R. J. Nurse, Vice Chairman; Deans Atwell, Bonham, Ford, Fordyce, Gray, Hanna, Humphreyville, and A. G. Phlegar; Professors Bambach Craig, Dickerson, Leininger, Rosenberry, Teates (for Sherman), and Vasey; Senators Chiang, Cook, and Wortman; SGA Representatives Branham, S. Morley (for Homan), C. Harrison (for Miller), and Train.

ABSENT: Dr. Wilson.

1. Dr. Nurse presided in Dr. Wilson's absence and opened the meeting by expressing the Commission's regrets at the untimely death of Dean Lacy.
  2. The Agenda was APPROVED with one item added.
  3. The Minutes of the CUS meeting of October 27 were approved.
  4. Dr. Nurse reported on the most recent--and brief--University Council meeting.
  5. Course Proposals were approved with minor editorial changes. Also, a new degree program in Agricultural Mechanization was approved. *→ approved 1-19-81*
  6. Textbook Approvals:
    1. Data Structures and Their Implementation by Robert J. Baron and Linda G. Shapiro. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1980. (cost \$17.95) (For use in CS 3301 - Data Structures and File Management I) Four-year approval.
    2. The Physics Around You by Dale D. Long. Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1980. (cost \$16.95) (For use in Physics 2010 - Physics in Daily Experience) Four-year approval.
    3. An Introduction to Linear Algebra by L. W. Johnson, R. D. Riess. Addison-Wesley, 1980. (cost approximately \$18.00) (For use in Math H2212) One-year approval.
    4. Arguments, Arrows, Trees and Truth by Harlan B. Miller. Advocate Publishing Group, 1980. (cost \$8.64) (For use in Phil 1500 - Language and Logic) One-year approval.
- Accepted JDN* 7. A resolution (copy attached) calling for interim (mid-term) grades for first-quarter students (both freshmen and transfers) each fall quarter was introduced by Dean Fordyce. The resolution elicited considerable discussion about both the intent of the resolution (to provide students

and their advisors with timely information about student progress) and its implementation (the logistical problems involved in collecting, recording, and distributing grades to first-quarter students and their advisors). Although there was some skepticism expressed about the effectiveness of the proposed system, there was general agreement that first-time students face unique problems in adjusting to the academic-- and other--demands of the University and that students and advisors should have more timely information on student progress. In the course of the discussion, Faculty Senate representatives pointed out that the Senate did not favor this resolution but would present a substitute resolution at the appropriate time.

The motion for approving the resolution carried with a recommended effective date of implementation of Fall, 1981.

*exempted J.D.W.* 8. Senator Cook moved a resolution (copy attached) calling for the availability of final fall quarter grades to first-quarter students and their advisors not later than check-in day for winter quarter. During the discussion it was pointed out that fall grades were ready for distribution on December 28 this past year. There was some disagreement among Commission members about whether this early availability was always the case. Proponents of the resolution appeared to feel strongly that fall grades should routinely be available to students and advisors prior to check-in day for the winter quarter. Opponents tended to feel that the resolution was moot in that grades were available prior to winter quarter check-in.

The Motion for approving the resolution carried.

*exempted J.D.W.* 9. Dean Bonham introduced a resolution (copy attached) calling for a change in the University's policy on auditing courses. Current policy prohibits students from subsequently enrolling in courses which they audited. The proposed policy would permit students to audit a course prior to taking it for credit, would place audit enrollments at the discretion of the instructor, and would permit audits only on a space-available basis.

Following a brief discussion the motion for approving the resolution was passed with a recommended effective date of Fall, 1981.

10. As a matter of information, Dean Atwell reported that the academic deans' group is studying the current University policy on academic eligibility and is expected to propose some changes in the policy before the end of the current academic year. Items under review include the QCA required for continued academic eligibility, possible revision of the 2.5 requirement for continuing in good standing, and the term of suspension of those students placed on "first drop" status.
11. Dr. Bambach, chairman of the Pass/Fail Committee, reported that his committee was continuing to expand the data base on the P/F question. He expects to have substantial additional evidence in support of the resolution to present to the University Council at the appropriate time.

CUS Minutes - November 10, 1980

12. Due to the Thanksgiving Holidays, the next regular CUS meeting will be held on Monday, December 8.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Atwell  
Secretary

kdk



## VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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November 14, 1980

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission on Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Co-Chairmen, Summer Orientation Program  
Ronald J. Nurse and Sandra Sullivan

SUBJECT: 1980 Summer Orientation Report

In accordance with University policy, the following report is submitted for your review and reaction.

Introduction

During the 1980 Summer Orientation Program, the University hosted a total of 10,979 students, parents and guests. The program consisted of 25 individual sessions conducted over a twenty-five day period from June 18 through July 23, 1980 excluding weekends and the July 4 holiday.

The Orientation Program is designed for all entering freshmen and transfer students accepted for admission for the coming fall, and involves the coordinated efforts of the Provost's Office, Admissions, Student Affairs, and faculty in each of the academic colleges. The daily schedule, which is long and full for students and parents, begins at 7:30 a.m. and concludes at 4:45 p.m. (See page four). Happily, the morning and afternoon sessions moved with reasonable smoothness and the reactions of parents and students were gratifying.

Using student, parent and faculty evaluations as indices, the Summer Orientation program continues to be a highly beneficial program. Generally, the evaluations indicate that the program successfully accomplished its purposes: to introduce students and parents to the University community and to academic and student life policies; to help students plan for their experiences as Virginia Tech students; and to assist students' pre-registration for fall quarter classes. It was the consensus of students and parents that the entire program did offer, with a minimum of inconveniences and misunderstandings, a valuable overview of university life...as well as an opportunity for academic orientation and personal contact with their college faculty.

In short, the program continues to be meaningful to students and parents and it must be judged as an outstanding public relations vehicle for the University. In the collective judgment of the Summer Orientation Committee members, and Student Affairs, this past summer's program continued to meet the many varied needs of our new students and their parents.