

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES**  
**November 6, 2017**  
**230 Student Services Building, 3:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** D. Stauffer; K. Albright; J. Billingsley; D. Clubb; M. Davenport; V. Fowler; T. Hammett; R. Holloway; M. Kasarda; C. Leeth; R. Panneton for S. Morton; K. Redican; J. Sible; S. Sumner for A. Grant; D. Thorp; S. Ulrich; B. Watford for J. Ross; R. Willis; L. Zietsman

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** E. Coupey; K. Hosig; L. Khansa; A. Zink-Sharp

**ABSENT WITHOUT NOTIFICATION:** G. Daniel; M. Hajj; A. Knoblauch; S. Metko; A. Roche

**VISITORS:** N. Akers; S. Biscotte; G. Costello; M. Coulter; A. Dickow; R. Hester for D. Breslau; R. Shryock

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Dean Stauffer.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL AND POSTING OF MINUTES**

D. Stauffer announced the October 23, 2017 minutes were electronically approved and can be accessed via the University Registrar's website:  
[https://registrar.vt.edu/content/dam/registrar\\_vt\\_edu/documents/Updates/governance/2017-2018/oct23/minutes\\_cusp\\_oct\\_23\\_17\\_final\\_rev.pdf](https://registrar.vt.edu/content/dam/registrar_vt_edu/documents/Updates/governance/2017-2018/oct23/minutes_cusp_oct_23_17_final_rev.pdf)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Resolution 2017-18.C** *Resolution to Revise Pathways General Education Curriculum (Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125 and University Core Curriculum/Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE) (PPM 24)) and Implementation for the Pathways General Education Curriculum to Amend the Language for Foundational Discourse Courses, **Second Reading***

An editorial change was noted that the resolution should be amended to exclude the word "and" and end the sentence with a semicolon in the third statement beginning with "Whereas."

The motion was made and seconded to present for second reading Resolution 2017-18.C *Resolution to Revise Pathways General Education Curriculum (Presidential Policy*

*Memorandum No. 125 and University Core Curriculum/Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE) (PPM 24) and Implementation for the Pathways General Education Curriculum to Amend the Language for Foundational Discourse Courses*

D. Stauffer informed the Commission that the Faculty Senate had conducted a review of Resolution 2017-18.C. and provided their feedback in the form of a letter to the Commission. The letter was made available as a resource to the Commission for this meeting.

D. Stauffer opened the floor for discussion on Resolution 2017-18.C beginning with R. Shryock summarizing the Faculty Senate feedback. R. Shryock informed the Commission that at a well-attended Faculty Senate meeting last week, the Faculty Senate overwhelmingly rejected the approval of Resolution 2017-18.C.

**R. Shryock and A. Dickow-Presentation of Topics of Concern:**

- Requested clarification of “a necessary foundation of language proficiency in English” with defined, measurable, and assessable skills. They explained that data shows there are transferable skills between languages.
- Addressed the concern that standards will be lowered and foreign language courses will be used in an easier path to getting around general education requirements when in actuality it is more difficult for students choosing a more challenging path. This impacts a small number of students who completed 4 years of high school foreign language and want to go further and possibly pursue a minor.
- Presented to the Commission that academic departments will have to opt in to allow non-English courses to count, and they currently control their own checksheets.
- Clarified that native speakers are not permitted to take language courses and are permitted to take content courses.
- Summarized that the resolution does not align with the university’s goal to be a global land-grant university and noted that the rejection of the resolution will allow for a course-by-course review and approval, and increased discourse opportunities.

**Commission Follow Up Discussion Topics:**

- **General Education: Requirements/Academic Departments**
  - R. Holloway elaborated on the 6 credit hour foundational discourse courses regarding the range of communication skills and context

(writing, speaking, and visual communication) embedded in the courses.

- J. Sible explained that academic department approval of checksheets is a separate process than approving general education courses. There are implications of this for students pursuing double majors.
- R. Holloway expressed concern related to a department specifying specific courses for general education and potential impact on a common university general education.
- **Proficiency**
  - J. Sible provided background information. The Pathways Ad Hoc Review Committee seeks a clear, consistent, and unambiguous policy as the Committee realized there was ambiguity, and that the original intention was for the foundational discourse classes to be taught in English with advanced/applied outcomes offered in foreign languages. She explained that proficiency involves context and skill and that the intention is not to push out foreign language courses from general education.
  - D. Thorp emphasized the need for our students to master the English language in support of academic success.
  - It was pointed out by several Commission members that the proficiency does not specifically address grammar, and that 1105 and 1106 are not grammar focused.
  - V. Fowler presented to the Commission that the English Department is supportive of non-English courses counting towards discourse requirements, sees this as an excellent opportunity for students, and recognizes both the academic rigor and transferable skills between languages.
  - B. Watford and R. Holloway called for greater discussions about final grades of D as evidence of proficiency, in general.
  - R. Panneton expressed thanks for bringing forward the important issue of proficiency and hopes for greater discussions in the future on effective ways of improving proficiency.
- **General Education: Goal/Concern for Students**
  - D. Stauffer, V. Fowler, R. Shryock reminded the Commission of the limited impact due to the small number of students electing this option.
  - A. Dickow, V. Fowler, and B. Watford took note of the unfriendliness of the language in the resolution.
  - R. Holloway emphasized our shared goal of encouraging broad general education options and not restricting opportunities for our students.

Hearing no further discussion, D. Stauffer called for a vote on Resolution 2017-18.C.

The motion to approve Resolution 2017-18.C, as written, **did not pass: Yes (3); No (13); Abstain (1).**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Resolution 2017-18.D** *Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Arts in Science, Technology, and Society, First Reading*

The motion was made and seconded to present for first reading Resolution 2017-18.D, *Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Arts in Science, Technology, and Society*

D. Stauffer opened the floor for discussion on Resolution 2017-18.D.

Discussion and clarification topics included the following:

The Commission suggested a minor edit to the resolution to exclude the reference to SACS notification. G. Costello is going to verify.

On behalf of D. Breslau, R. Hester provided information in response to Commission comments and questions regarding topics of incorporation of departmental minors, the interdisciplinary nature of the discipline, the core concepts taught in the core classes, the research into other schools offering similar programs, and employable skills students will gain, and potential job opportunities for students in the program.

R. Holloway presented that there is currently a graduate degree and the proposed undergraduate degrees will offer opportunities in this area of study for undergraduate students.

Resolution 2017-18.D has been forwarded to Faculty Senate for comment. Following the Faculty Senate review and response, the second reading of Resolution 2017-18.D will take place at the next available CUSP meeting.

### **Resolution 2017-18.E** *Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society, First Reading*

The motion was made and seconded to present for first reading Resolution 2017-18.E, *Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society*

D. Stauffer opened the floor for discussion on Resolution 2017-18.E.

Discussion and clarification topics included the following:

The Commission members and R. Hester discussed the 6 credit difference between the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees and the unique, interdisciplinary nature of the program which is centered around more science-based coursework inherently.

Resolution 2017-18.E has been forwarded to Faculty Senate for comment. Following the Faculty Senate review and response, the second reading of Resolution 2017-18.E 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**

No Report.

#### **Athletic Committee**

No Report.

#### **Commencement Committee**

No Report.

#### **Honor Council**

M. Davenport reported the Honor Council hosted the first ever site visit with students and faculty from the College of William & Mary, representing a collaborative opportunity to present the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Honor System. Additionally, M. Davenport reported the Honor Council has resolved five hundred cases, and further that the new system has helped to reduce unresolved cases, increased the reporting of cases due to more confidence in the system, and continues to receive positive feedback in the improved system.

D. Stauffer shared his positive experience with the new system as well.

#### **Library Committee**

No Report.

## Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

M. Kasarda presented the report of the October 27, 2017 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report of the October 27, 2017 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

**UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT—OCTOBER 27, 2017**  
**FOR “FIRST AND SECOND READING”**  
**UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**

**COURSES**

**New:**

**Spring 2018**

**College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences**

COMM 4344 Free Speech in Cyberspace (CM-3822)

**Fall 2018**

**College of Architecture and Urban Studies**

SPIA 2114 Public Service Leadership (CM-3812)

**College of Engineering**

CHE 3124 Chemical Engineering Simulations and Process Modeling (CM-3802)

**Pamplin College of Business**

REAL 3044/ FIN 3044 Financing Real Estate Projects (CM-3819)

**Revised:**

**Spring 2018**

**College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences**

COMM 4254 Topics in Multimedia Journalism (CM-3821)

MS 1005, 1006 Military Science I, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (CM-3708)

MS 2005, 2006 Military Science II, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (CM-3709)

MS 3005, 3006 Military Science III, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (CM-3710)

MS 4005, 4006 Military Science IV, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (CM-3711)

RUS 1105-1106 Elementary Russian (CM-3832)

**Fall 2018**

**Honors College**

UH 1504 PGS Study Abroad Pre-Departure Seminar (CM-3768)

**DEGREES, MAJORS, OPTIONS, MINORS**

**Degrees**

**New:**

**Effective Graduating Calendar Year 2021**

**College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences**

Establishment of New Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Science, Technology, and Society (BASTS), Major: Science, Technology, and Society (STAS); First effective date to declare major: Fall 2018; First effective date to graduate: Spring 2021 (CM-3686)

Checksheet: Bachelor of Arts in Science, Technology, and Society, Major: Science, Technology, and Society (STS); Effective for students graduating in calendar year 2021 (CM-3686)

Establishment of New Degree: Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society (BSSTS), Major: Science, Technology, and Society (STAS); First effective date to declare major: Fall 2018; First effective date to graduate: Spring 2021 (CM-3686)

Checksheet: Bachelor of Arts in Science, Technology, and Society, Major: Science, Technology, and Society (STS);

Effective for students graduating in calendar year 2021 (CM-3686)

**Minors**

**Revised:**

**Effective Graduating Calendar Year 2019**

**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**

Checksheet: Minor in Animal and Poultry Sciences (APSC); Effective for students graduating in calendar year 2019 (CM-3769)

Checksheet: Minor in Animal and Poultry Sciences - Equine (APEQ); Effective for students graduating in calendar year 2019 (CM-3770)

**University Curriculum Committee for General Education**

L. Zietsman presented the report of the October 11, 2017 Pathways Ad Hoc Review Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report of the October 11, 2017 Pathways Ad Hoc Review Committee.

L. Zietsman presented the report of the October 25, 2017 Pathways Ad Hoc Review Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report of the October 25, 2017 Pathways Ad Hoc Review Committee.

**PATHWAYS AD-HOC REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT—OCTOBER 11, 2017**

**For “Second Reading”  
Not Approved: Unanimous**

**COURSES**

**Revised:**

**Undergraduate Education**

UNIV 1824: Pathways to Success: Exploring Your Future (CLE Area 3, Pathways Reasoning in the Social Sciences GE03, Ethical Reasoning GE10) (CM 3773)



**PATHWAYS AD-HOC REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT—OCTOBER 25, 2017**

**For “First and Second Reading”**

**Unanimous Approval**

**COURSES**

**New:**

**CLE Spring 2018/Pathways Fall 2018**

**College of Architecture and Urban Studies**

SPIA 2314 (HNFE 2314): Active Transportation for a Healthy, Sustainable Planet (CLE Areas 3 and 7, Pathways Reasoning in the Social Sciences GE03, Intercultural and Global Awareness GE11) (CM 3813)

**Revised:**

**CLE Spring 2018/Pathways Fall 2018**

**College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences**

AINS 1104: Introduction to American Indian Studies (CLE Area 2, Pathways Reasoning in the Social Sciences GE03, Intercultural and Global Awareness GE11) (CM 3740)

COMM 2084: Media and Society (CLE Area 3, Pathways Reasoning in the Social Sciences GE03, Ethical Reasoning GE10) (CM 3724)

MUS 3314: Instrumental Ensemble Music (CLE Area 6, Pathways Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts GE06, Ethical Reasoning GE10) (CM 3747)

RLCL 2514 (SOC 2514): Asian American Experience (CLE Area 3, Pathways Reasoning in the Social Sciences GE03, Intercultural and Global Awareness GE11) (CM 3745)

SPAN 3444: Early Spanish-American Culture and Literature (CLE Area 2, Pathways Critical Thinking in the Humanities GE02, Intercultural and Global Awareness GE11) (CM 3772)

**College of Science**

BIOL 1105, 1106: Principles of Biology (CLE Area 4, Pathways Reasoning in the Natural Sciences GE04, Ethical Reasoning GE10) (CM 3760)

MATH 1535,1536: Geometry and Mathematics of Design (CLE Area 5, Pathways Quantitative and Computational Thinking GE05, Intercultural and Global Awareness GE11) (CM 3764)

**CONSTITUENT REPORTS**

**Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**

No report.

**Staff Senate**

No report.

**Faculty Senate**

D. Stauffer reported that President Sands spoke at the Faculty Senate meeting last week.

**Student Government Association**

R. Willis reported on behalf of A. Roche that the Student Government Association will be hosting an open invitation event and additional information will be provided soon.

**Graduate Student Assembly**

No report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Megan Coulter, Office of the University Registrar*

11/9/17