

COMMISSION on STUDENT AFFAIRS
February 19, 2009
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Brush Mountain Room
Squires Student Center
Minutes

Present: Davis Bailey, Tom Brown, Paul Deyerle, Lauren Keister for Monika Gibson, Bo Hart, Monica Hunter, Stephen Huff for Adeel Khan, Nathan Lavinka, Matthew Zackon for Emily Mashack, Emily Mauger, Leon McClinton, Michelle McLeese, Ingrid Ngai, Aaron Bock for Matt Penny, Abby Schoenfeld, Roshaan Settle, Guy Sims, Edward Spencer, Camille Waldron, Hannah Goff

Absent: Linsey Barker, Billy Brubaker, Virgilio Centeno, Judith Condezo, Ron Daniel, Lauren Davis, Rick Ferraro, Andy Fortin, James Freeman, Brian Golden, Destiny Jackson, Brad Klein, Tanya Leroith, Anna LoMascolo, Joseph McFadden, Duane Rollins, Karen Sanders, Jonathan Stein, Richard Umemoto, Rianka Urbina, Krishna Vummidi

Guests: Shivani Handa

I. Call to Order

Ms. Ingrid Ngai, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

There was a motion to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. New Business

A. Abby Schoenfeld, Virginia Tech Union (VTU Constitution), First Reading

Ms. Schoenfeld presented the first reading of the VTU Constitution revisions noting that a few changes have been made for their election process. The second reading will be at the March 5 meeting.

B. Shivani Handa, Council of International Student Organizations (CISO) Constitution, Second Reading

Ms. Handa presented the second reading of the CISO Constitution. A motion was made to approve the revisions; the motion was seconded and approved.

IV. Potential Guests for Future CSA Meetings

Ms. Ngai asked for input on potential guests for future CSA meetings. The following suggestions were made:

- Housing and Dining group to discuss how they have progressed on some of the changes mentioned at the last CSA meeting.
- Athletics Department – ticket lottery around basketball
- Department of Recreational Sports
- Presentation on Hokie Camp
- Tuition and fees for next year
- Parking Services (this could include graduate students who serve on the Parking Services Advisory Board)

V. Guest Speaker

A. Arlane Gordon-Bray, Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Visitors. Topic: Alliance for Concerned Students Forum Data Presentation

Ms. Gordon-Bray reported on the third forum sponsored by the Alliance for Concerned Students. She reviewed the process of the forum which included a round table discussion and an open mic session. It was a diverse mix of students, graduate and undergraduate, faculty and staff. The four questions for discussion were:

- Does the Virginia Tech community create an open and inviting environment for the LGBT community and what more can be done to help us transition to increased acceptance?
- What are some changes, both positive and realistic, which the university could implement to alleviate these issues, resulting in a more fulfilling collegiate experience?
- How would you rate your experiences here and what kinds of changes would you like to see implemented?
- What are improvements which both administration and professors can make to better educate and advise students while also pursuing their research aspirations?

The questions and responses were passed around the room so that CSA members could see the data that was gathered. In response to the question, what happens next now that the data has been gathered, Ms. Gordon-Bray noted that the plan is to take the data and distribute it to different groups (i.e., SGA, BOV, Dining Services, Residence Life, LGBT, etc.), so that they get an idea of what the issues are. The information was also shared with Dr. Spencer, who took it to the Housing and Dining Forum that was held in the fall.

In response to a question about Shultz Dining Hall, Dr. Spencer noted that Shultz will become a part of the Performing Arts Center, so the process has begun to design a combination dining center and classroom building to take the place of Shultz that will be located between Randolph Hall and the ICTAS building and expected to open during the

2011-2012 academic year. There will be in the facility a separate room for cadet dining at night that will be used for other uses during the day. The Services for Students with Disabilities office will also be located in this facility.

VI. Announcements

1. Paul Deyerle announced that they will be forming a group called Hokies for Equality and will be asking other student organizations and businesses down town to partner in this effort. This will be an outreach group to the community and student body.
2. Homecoming Dates: October 5 – 10 will be homecoming week. Information sessions for Court information will be held on March 16 – 19 (one representative has to attend at least one information session)
3. The Graduate Student Assembly will be hosting the first of two wine socials tomorrow night, February 20, at the University Club.
4. The Ebony Affair is tomorrow night, February 20, in Squires Student Center, 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
5. Virginia Tech is hosting the ACC Leadership Conference this weekend, February 20 - 22.
6. Dr. Spencer announced that we have 13 applicants for the Undergraduate Representative to the BOV and 4 applicants for the Graduate Representative to the BOV.
7. Ms. Gordon-Bray announced that the Selection Committee for the Undergraduate Representative will be meeting tomorrow (2/20), 2:00 p.m., in 333 Squires and she needs individuals to assist in the process.
8. Winterfest, which is a big community-wide event, will be held on February 28, noon – 5:00 p.m., in Squires Student Center.
9. Dr. McClinton announced that it is not yet confirmed, but there is the likelihood of the University building a Habitat for Humanity house next fall. The two possible locations are the Dietrick Lawn and part of the Drillfield located across from the Duckpond. The plan is to build the house during homecoming week and once built, is then taken somewhere off-site. A suggestion was made that the house remain in the Blacksburg area if possible. Ms. Waldron noted that Panhellenic Council would want to get on board with this project.
10. Ms. McLeese reported that she sat in on one of the April 16 Commemorative meetings and one item discussed was that this year they want to have more of a presence of graduate students, faculty, staff, and the community as participants. Any suggestions on how to go about this can be passed on to Emily Mashack.

11. Ms. Ngai announced that because the position of Chair is new to her, she asked for the group's patience, feedback, etc. She wants this to be a place for everybody to have open communication and if anyone has problems understanding her or if they have questions, please let her know.

VII. Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda M. Rogers
Recording Secretary