

Commission on Student Affairs
March 4, 2010
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Brush Mountain Room
Squires Student Center

Present: Kimberly Brown, Brandon Carroll, Kimberly Carlson, Liana Farb, Rick Ferraro, Laura Freeman, Rebecca French, Monika Gibson, Hung Kuang for Shivana Handa, Kristina Hartman, Frank Hernandez, Monica Hunter, Monique Johnson, Aimee Kanode, Nathan Lavinka, Marco Leung, Mary Ann Lewis, Shane McCarty, Michelle McLeese, Thomas Medina, Adam Rubin, Robert Sebak, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Leighton Vila, Matthew Parka for Ben Wade, Rawlin Jefferson for Lauren Thompson

Absent: Kristin Carr, Ashley Davis, Brian Golden, Meg Gough, Brad Klein, Anna LoMascolo, Matt Penny, Donna Ratcliffe, Sharmin Shamsalsadati, Frank Shushok, John Steger, Nigel Wray

Guests: James W. Carty, Zach Crizer, Tommy Davidson, Liana Bayne

I. Call to Order

Ms. McLeese, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and the agenda approved.

III. Welcome and Chair Update(s)

The Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD)

- Continuing conversations about existing issues; the campus climate task force is assessing which direction to go in.
- Discussion about what's going to happen next year.
- The BOV is coming in a couple of weeks and a topic will be the University's Diversity Strategic Plan and the CEOD will have opportunities for CSA as they move forward.

University Council

- 2nd reading for the Jewish Student Union was approved, so Adam Rubin was introduced to the CSA membership as President of the Jewish Student Union
- Interim Suspension & Weapons policies passed.

Ms. McLeese asked the membership to be thinking about the Chair and Vice Chair positions for CSA next year. She and Mr. McCarty have been talking about having a transitional meeting to assist the new Chair and Vice Chair once elected.

Ms. McLeese announced that the April 15 meeting has been rescheduled to April 22. This will be the last meeting of the year and the transitional meeting for the new Chair and Vice Chair. She also encouraged the current CSA members to have newly elected officers shadow them at the next couple of meetings.

IV. Guest Speakers

A. Allison Dunn, Assistant Director of Co-Curricular Leadership Programs, Summer Leadership and Employment Program Overview

Ms. Dunn gave a brief presentation on the Summer Leadership and Employment Program (SLEP) explaining that it is a summer program for all student organizations that are represented on CSA whereby their chief officer or designee comes and works over the summer, up to 20 hours a week, for their organization. This program gets you involved in the campus community and is a practical application to develop skills to be successful in CSA and within your organizations. Ms. Dunn needs to know who the new officers are so that they can proceed with planning for room reservations, etc. Both graduate and undergraduate reps also participate or can designate a designee.

B. Kristina Hartman and Laura Freeman, CSA Subcommittee Co-chairs, CSA Membership Review Presentation

Ms. Hartman and Ms. Freeman distributed the sub-committee report summarizing their potential recommendations.

- Cutting six seats from the current commission size (two students and four faculty/administrators).
- Allow UCSOs to turn down a seat on CSA on an annual basis.
- Create a rotation or lottery system which all UCSOs enter into for seats and a certain number are picked each year
- Create "at-large" seats, which individual students could apply for
- Create a new class of student organizations- UGOs (University Governance Organization). UCSOs would still have input through a committee structure
- UGOs mission would include bringing legislation to the University

There was discussion regarding the current system noting that the current system is not conducive to including students in making changes, that a structure of a student voice gets lost. A suggestion was also made regarding Advisory Boards that could report to CSA. Dr. Spencer noted that we should think about what type of bureaucracy we would be setting up by going in this direction.

Following further discussion, Ms. McLeese stated that at this time the Commission can waive the first reading to accelerate this process if the Commission thinks this is something that it wants to push through now or we can

wait and begin the process in the fall semester. Ms. Hartman asked that the Committee continue to provide the sub-committee with feedback. Legislation will be drawn up to be voted on in the future.

V. Old Business

A. Melissa Yates, Chair, Undergraduate Studies & Policies Committee in SGA Senate, Torgersen Legislation – 24/7 study facility, 2nd reading.

Ms. Yates presented the second reading and Mr. Carroll made a motion to go forward with the resolution. The motion was seconded followed by discussion.

It was noted that there needs to be an exact cost analysis to present to University Council that would include such items as cameras, security guards, wear and tear on the building, housekeeping, etc. Ms. Yates had an estimate cost of about \$50,000. For clarification, the question was raised that if the motion is voted on today, where would we go from here. Ms. Yates noted that once the financial analysis was done, then CSA could decide to support or not. She stated that this is a resolution supporting this effort and a committee would be formed to work on this. Dr. Spencer noted that not everything has to go to University Council. We can pass approval supporting a position and send to the Provost's Office as co-supported by SGA and CSA. After discussion the motion was amended to make a statement of support on behalf of CSA instead of a resolution. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention.

B. CT On-line Commenting System Issue, Updates, Future Action(s)

Ms. McLeese reported that since the Collegiate Times has declined the opportunity for mediation, should she now go ahead and send a letter that she has prepared?

Mr. Leighton reported that he and Mr. Medina attended the Town/Gown Committee meeting and got their support in seeing some type of change in the CT commenting system. They are currently doing a peer review of all other newspapers, professional and collegiate, collecting data and working on a readership survey. Mr. Leighton noted that students who are unhappy with what is getting posted in the CT are calling businesses and organizations submitting the ads that are posted to let them know that they are not happy with what's being printed in the CT and, as a community member of Blacksburg, they should be also. Ms. McLeese noted that this idea of garnering support from organizations or businesses who advertise is an individual decision.

In regard to the funding of EMCVT, it was explained that the \$70,000 a year is part of the agreement which cannot be changed without a two-year notice from either party. The \$70,000 comes out of the Student Activities portion of the comprehensive fee. Dr. Spencer noted that the CT is pretty much self-supporting

from its revenue—the \$70,000 really goes towards the cost of the other parts of the EMCVT.

It was suggested that the sub-committee report to the Commission as appropriate. Some other suggestions were:

- We do not want to reflect that the Commission is asking organizations to do something that they can do on their own
- Dr. Spencer recommended that we express our disappointment to the Media Company in their not accepting our offer to engage in professional mediation and the Commission can issue a statement on behalf of this issue. We need to be concerned about what climate we represent.
- Ms. Brown noted that whether or not this group makes a recommendation to alter the contract two years in advance, there seems to be the consensus that there is concern about the relationship in that contract.
- There needs to be a cooling off period. We will not take any action until a recommendation has been put together that has been clarified and agreed upon.

The sub-committee is open to receiving comments and suggestions to be presented at the next meeting and it was suggested that there be a survey of the commission to find out concerns.

Ms. McLeese noted that this topic will be discussed more at the next CSA meeting.

VI. New Business

Hokie Day – Updates from those who attended the General Assembly – This topic will be discussed at the March 18 meeting.

VII. Announcements

Any announcements for the minutes can be sent to Ms. Rogers at rogersr@vt.edu.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Rogers
Recording Secretary