

## COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

October 14, 2010

**Present:** Sandy Bass, Sara Brickman, Tom Brown, Michael Cardman, Parisa Ahmadi (designee for Lubna Chowdhury), Dustin Dorph (designee for Tyler Campbell), Rick Ferraro, Caroline Gimenez, Meg Gough, Bo Hart, Lauren Heming (designee for Stacey Pannell), Frank Hernandez, Rawlin Jefferson (designee for Pamella Palmer), Jessi Kane, Greer Kelly, Nathan Lavinka, Karen Strickler (for Mary Ann Lewis), Michelle McLeese, Jonathan Moore, Nate Navasca (designee for Richmond Hwang), Kelley McKew (for Matt Parker), Charles Petty, David Ramras, Joseph Seton, Frank Shushok, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Leighton Vila

**Guests:** Lauren Beecher, Stephen Capaldo, Shanoya Conner, Kristen Houston, Peter Velz

### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Nathan Lavinka, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

### **II. Adoption of Agenda**

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

### **III. Welcome and Chair Update**

Mr. Lavinka welcomed the group to the meeting and asked that Dr. Sims give an update on the CEOD meeting.

- Dr. Sims reported that the CEOD reviewed the the Campus Notice that goes out every year from the Vice Presidents and Provost regarding the holiday season (i.e., decorations, symbols of holidays, etc. to heighten awareness that everybody does not celebrate the same). The Commission would like to continue sending out the letter, but is recommending that instead of waiting until the holiday season, it should be a part of a letter that goes out at the beginning of the year to acknowledge all holidays, recognitions, etc. throughout the year.
- The second topic of discussion at the CEOD meeting was the Diversity Summit which is held every year at the beginning of Spring Semester. It has usually been very broad in its perspective and the Commission would like to see it be more geared towards the Strategic Plan and what our progress is each year as we work towards the plan. The recommendation of the Commission was to get quarterly updates on our progress in this area and then hold the big community gathering, a Diversity Progress Summit, at the traditional time.

- Mr. Lavinka reported that the third post of the CSA blog will be coming out shortly.

#### **IV. Guest Speakers/Presenters**

A. Dr. Frank Shushok, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, gave a presentation on the plans to open our first two Residential Colleges. He gave some background information about this type of housing being around for a long time at places like Yale and Princeton. Both Residential Colleges will be housed in Ambler Johnston with the first one opening in the Fall of 2011. The second one will open in 2012. The Residential College program is designed to work with all parts of a student's life (social, academic, community, etc.). Below are some points that were made in response to questions raised.

- Student Governance is a very important part of the Residential College model.
- The facility is not designed for couples or married students, but there is a possibility for Graduate Students
- There will be an application process to be a part of the Residential College community. The idea is that a community like this might have 40% freshman, 40% sophomore, 20% juniors, 10% seniors, and some graduate students.
- There will be programming inside and outside of the facility.
- Ambler Johnston will provide a variety of living arrangements (suites, community bathrooms, and apartments).
- The campus community will be invited to be a part of this experience. There will be many spaces that are public. There will be thought given on how to make it accessible, but yet maintain the safety and security of the residents.
- Live-in faculty members will also be a part of the community and there are five faculty members on the committee that is working on this project. Faculty will not be selected because of their discipline and they will probably be asked to sign up for a three-year term and a renewable second, three year term is being discussed.
- The idea is that students will want to stay in the community the whole time they are enrolled.
- At a bare minimum we want to reserve 40% of spaces for first year students.

If anybody interested in being a part of the design of this program, let Dr. Shushok know.

#### **V. Old Business**

Ms. Michelle McLeese, who is chairing the Sub-committee to work on the Collegiate Times Readership Survey reported that she still needs members to serve on the committee along with her, Leighton Vila, and Peter Velz. Those who volunteered to serve are: Meg Gough, Caroline Gimenez, and Sarah Brickman.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Jonathan Moore, Graduate Student Assembly, Additional Study Abroad**

Mr. Moore brought to the attention of the Commission the Virginia Tech Education Abroad Program Liability Agreement form, which is a form to protect the University from any legal action. He noted that there is no student representation on the Commission on International Affairs, so students have no means of input into this process. He got the agreement of the Council to hold their vote until October 25 so that Mr. Moore could bring this before CSA. Mr. Steve Capaldo, Associate University Legal Counsel, was present to speak about some of the legal concerns.

- Health issues have become more of a concern recently. If you have any private health issues, students need to consult their health care provider and student abroad advisor to make sure that all pertinent information is gathered.
- Waivers are binding
- The University is not responsible for additional lodging if for some reason students cannot return as scheduled.
- The program leader has responsibility to develop and present the consent list.
- There is a separate arrangement for graduate students out of the country doing research. A waiver would not pertain to them, graduate students would fall under the discretion of the department.

Mr. Capaldo noted that Dr. John Dooley, Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, would be glad to come speak to the group if so desired. The Commission's consensus was that use of the form should be approved.

### **B. Charlie Petty, Interfraternity Council, Resolution for Constitution Revisions/Updates, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Mr. Petty presented the first reading to make changes to the Interfraternity Council Constitution, related to consolidation of two positions on the Executive Council into one. The second reading will be at the October 28 CSA meeting.

## **VII. Announcements**

- Mr. Rawlin Jefferson reported that the BSA Laugh Riot event was successful, but the process leading up to the event was not so successful. Tickets were supposed to be sold through the Ticket Office, but the Ticket Office did not communicate back to BSA in a timely manner to get this taken care of. BSA will be moving forward to set up a meeting with Dr. Sims and Dr. Spencer to address the situation. Mr. Rawlin asked of any other organization who has had the same experience with the Ticket Office

would like to be a part of this discussion, they would be welcomed. Mr. Lavinka asked that we put this on the agenda for the October 28 meeting. .

- Hispanic Heritage Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 16 and on Sunday, October 17 there will be a Latino Festival in the Commonwealth Ballroom, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Mr. Bo Hart noted that students are asking questions about why we only have one day off for fall break. Mr. Hart has already met Dr. Spencer and Dr. McNamee to draw up some thoughts and maybe at the next meeting we can have the Registrar, Dr. McNamee, and others discuss this.
- GSA is hosting a Fall Wine Social, October 15, 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at the University Club.
- Ms. Meg Gough reported that Panhellenic Council has officially voted to bring a new sorority onto campus this spring, Gamma Phi Beta. They also voted to bring on Kappa Alpha Theta when there is an available spot, probably around 2014
- Ms. Gough reminded the group that they will be having a speaker on campus October 19, 7:00 p.m., in Colonial Hall. The program is called “Let’s Talk About It.” The focus will be on violence against women.
- Wednesday, October 20, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., there will be an “It Get’s Better Rally”. The focus is students at the collegiate level, primary, and secondary education schools who have been harassed and taken their own lives.

**VIII. Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Rogers  
Recording Secretary