

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, October 27th, 2011

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

Present: Shaimaa Abdallah, Matt Banfield, Sandy Bass, Lauren Beecher, Tom Brown, Sue Buyrn, Tyler Campbell, Naomi Dam, Corbin DiMeglio, Rick Ferraro, Monika Gibson, Jacob Grohs, Cynthia Gomez (for Erlan Guzman), Atieh Haghdoost, Ceseley Haynes, Zack Helmintoller, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson, Chris McDonough, Michelle McLeese, Shree Narayanan, Farzana Rashid, Nikki Roy, Caroline Sapyta, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, John Waters, Alex Walker, Emily Wilkinson

Absent: Mary Ann Lewis, Cheyenne Marshall, Kelley McKew, Margaret McQuain, Tom Schlegel, Frank Shushok, Jay Tucker

Guests: Garrett Compton, Catherine Cotrupi, Kristen Houston, Jaime Joslin, Ray Williams

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bass called the meeting to order at 3:30.

II. Adoption of Agenda (Last CSA Meeting – October 13th, 2011)

Motion was made to adopt the agenda for the October 27, 2011 CSA meeting. The motion was seconded, carried, and the October 27 agenda was adopted.

III. Welcome from Chair

Mr. Bass extended congratulations to Ms. Sue Buyrn, who was selected as the 2011-2012 Homecoming Queen.

IV. Icebreaker – Show and Tell, Vice-Chair Sue Buyrn

a. Zach Helmintoller – Graduate Student

Mr. Helmintoller shared scenic pictures of Beliz noting actually, Beliz suffers from a great deal of poverty. He is a part of a group called Peace Work, whereby through various projects they have been able to donate laptop computers to schools in Beliz so that the teachers can incorporate them into their curriculum. However, because they do not know how to use them, Mr. Helmintoller and others would like to go to Beliz and teach them how to use the computers. The cost would be \$1,500 per student and they plan to take six to eight students. If any organizations would like to contribute or if the membership knows of where this group might find funding, he asked that they let him know. They will need \$6,000 to \$9,000 dollars, depending on how many students are able to go.

b. John Waters – Undergraduate Student

Mr. Waters showed the group a military sabre noting that the Corps has a mentoring

system and his mentor passed the sabre on to him his freshman year, which is a piece of a tradition whereby the sabre has been passed down since 1936 and he will be passing it on to his mentee.

V. New Business

- a. Michelle McLeese, Chair of *The Collegiate Times* Sub-Committee
Michelle McLeese was nominated at the last CSA meeting to Chair the *Collegiate Times* Sub-Committee. Mr. Bass opened the floor for nomination of members to serve on the sub-committee with Ms. McLeese. Those individuals selected to serve are: Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Shree Narayanan, Emily Wilkinson, Lauren Beecher, Farzana Rashid, Rawlin Jefferson, and Tyler Campbell. Ms. McLeese will get with the sub-committee members to schedule a time to meet.

VI. Guest Speaker(s)/Presenter(s)

- a. Dale Robinson, Professional Mediator: *CSA Membership*
Dr. Spencer referencing the e-mail note that the Commission members received earlier in the week, summarized how the membership structure of the Commission came to be as it currently is. With increasing numbers of Chartered Student Organizations (CSOs) and their almost automatically getting a seat on the Commission, the Commission has grown and the percentage of the Commission that is represented by graduate students has declined. CSA is the largest governance system with 38 members and we have gotten to a point where we need rethink the size and see if there is another way to get the Commission down to a more manageable size, yet still have the characteristics that we want to have on the Commission.

For the purpose of discussion, a proposal that was drawn up by Dr. Sims and his staff was sent out to the Commission prior to this meeting and discussion at this meeting focused on this proposal, other proposals, generating some other ideas on how do we go about this, what characteristics do we want the commission have, governance vs. programming (which could be a guiding principle), etc. At this time, Dr. Spencer suggested that Mr. Bass step out of the roll of chairing the meeting and he introduced Dale Robinson, a member of the University Human Resources Division who is a professional mediator, and asked him to facilitate the discussion at this meeting. Below are items that came from the discussion that the group should be thinking about for future discussion regarding the membership structure.

Values to Consider

- Equity
- Balance
- Revisit the Mission of CSA – Alignment with the organization structure
- Relationships (between member organizations)
- Governance? (What is it?)
- Programming
- Think Tank (role of the CSA)

- Diversity
- Subject Matter (of discussions which take place in CSA)
- Definition of a governance organization?
 - Elected students on CSA or governance organizations
- Continuity w/ faculty & staff
- On or off CSA (Is this the only option?)
 - Subcommittees?
 - Non - voting options?
- Objectivity / unbiased
- Size in Mind?
 - Optimal vs. effective

Possible Options

- How is the CSA Chair selected?
- Renewable or non-renewable terms
- See no point of Student Centers & Activities Council – what is their mission? Concerns about diversity? What is their focus?
- Ways to have the “Council” represented on other commissions?
- Keeping CSA proportional for Grad and Undergrad students
- Moving SGA to the Council
- Alternate Grad and Undergrad positions to keep balance
- Increasing the # of seats from the Student Center Council to CSA (4 at-large seats?)
- LGBTA – representative of university community – awareness, education, support, not just programming
- SCA also subcommittee of CSA
- CSA is open to guests
- Ex-officio seat
- Council split ½ - permanent subcommittee
- Chief Justices serving as non-voting members

Guidelines for Deliberation

DSA's Aspirations

- Curiosity
- Self-Understanding and Integrity
- Civility
- Courageous Leadership

Deliberating vs. Debating

Avoid Interruptions

Mr. Robinson will attend the next meeting so that this discussion can continue with the hope of coming up with a resolution and first reading by the last meeting of the semester. Dr. Spencer indicated that the various proposals could be incorporated in the proposal that has already been written up by Dr. Sims and his group. Mr. Robinson also offered the students the opportunity to meet with him if they have some other suggestions and ideas which they would like to share.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.