

# MINUTES

## Virginia Tech University Council: Commission on Student Affairs (CSA) Minutes

September 29, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commission chair Mr. Matt Chan at 3:31 p.m.

### In attendance

Allison Aviles Garcia, Susan Anderson, Matt Chan, Alicia Cohen, Jacob Patish for Gabe Cohen, Chelsea Corkins, Manjot Kaur, Ron Mecham, Maddie Mitcham, Brett Netto, Meriam Nure, Spencer Morris for Alexa Parsley, Andrew Peck, Tara Reel, Evan Robohm, Chris Saunders, Liang Shi, Angela Simmons, Brett Speakman, Lauren Surface, Cameron Varano

### Absent with notification

Travis Bauer, Nevetha Ramesh

### Attending guests

Ryan Beck, Joe Edens, Mikey Erb, Lee Hawthorne, Kristen Houston, Matthew Logan, Veronica Montes, Tracy Newton, Kendall Pete, Shantel Simpson, Tricia Smith, Elizabeth Tranter

### Absent

Pat Finn, Aliana Harrison, Byron Hughes, James Orr

### Approval of Agenda and Past Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried. A motion was also made to approved the minutes for the September 15, 2016 meeting of CSA. The motion was seconded and approved.

### Committee Reports

There were no reports.

### Presentation

Dr. Elizabeth Tranter, Associate Vice President for Research Planning, gave a presentation that included an overview of the university-wide initiative "Destination Areas," its process thus far, and anticipated future work. Highlights of this initiative include cross-disciplinary collaboration to tackle "wicked problems," innovative curricula and research collaboration opportunities to attract students and faculty, and new physical spaces on campus of varying scale to promote growth in these Destination Areas. A strong emphasis was placed on student experiences, that the Destination Areas are designed to complement the so-called "VT-shaped" student, promoting transdisciplinary knowledge and disciplinary depth in students that are supported by informal communal learning and guided experiential learning. Dr. Tranter also answered questions and responded to comments made by CSA members. Dr. Tranter's presentation was made available to all CSA members.

### Constituency Updates

Ms. Alexa Parsley updated the Commission on activities within the Student Government Association (SGA). Highlights included the First-year Leadership Experience (FLEX), with the application process well underway. There is also continued planning on events related to the 50th Anniversary of SGA.

Ms. Chelsea Corkins gave an update on Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) activities. The first general assembly meeting was on September 22nd, with over 100 departmental delegates in attendance. The Graduate and Professional School Fair was held on September 26th, with record numbers of students attending.

Ms. Tara Reel then gave updates on Board of Visitors (BoV) student representatives' activities. As the graduate representative to the Board of Visitors, Ms. Reel partnered with the GSA and met with the Transportation and Parking Office to discuss concerns graduate students have with current and future development of parking on campus.

## **University Council and Commission Updates**

Mr. Chan gave an update on activities from the University Council. The Council has met on September 19th, and three resolutions were introduced for first readings. Two were from the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies; both were regrading discontinuation of degrees. The remaining resolution was from the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, regarding adding a faculty member of the Commission on Equal Opportunities and Diversity to the University Curriculum Committee on General Education to address intersectional diversity inclusion of the Pathways Curriculum. In addition, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke gave a presentation to the Council on activities her office has engaged in.

There is no report from the Commission on Equal Opportunities and Diversity as the Commission has not met since the last CSA meeting.

There is no report from the Academic Support Committee as the committee has yet to meet.

## **Division of Student Affairs Update**

Dr. Angela Simmons gave an update from the Division. Family weekend is to be held throughout September 30th – October 1st and all VT students and their families are invited to all related events. The first “Aspire!” breakfast is to be held on October 7th from 8 – 10 a.m. Dr. Patty Perrilo, Vice President for Student Affairs, has listed her offices hours, while Dr. Simmons herself will be inviting CSA members to a candid conversational meeting. Dr. Simmons concluded by reminding CSA members that all announced events and activities can be accessed via Gobbler Connect.

## **Unfinished Business**

- **CSA Leadership Position Confirmation**

Mr. Chan presented the responsibilities of the commission vice chair, and opened the floor for nomination. Mr. Chris Saunders, president of the Class of 2018 and CSA member self-nominated for the position of vice chair. The nomination was seconded and subsequently unanimously confirmed by CSA members. Mr. Saunders will serve as CSA vice chair for the year of 2016-17. Mr. Chan asked for nominations for a CSA representative to the Commission on Equal Opportunities and Diversity. There were none.

- **Muslim Student Union (MSU) Application to Become a University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO)**

Mr. Muneeb Hammed and Mr. Zohaib Qureshi from the MSU returned for their application. Mr. Chan reminded CSA members that MSU was internally approved by the Office of Student Engagement and Campus Life, Office of Risk Management, and University Legal Counsel to proceed with their application. CSA members inquired about the process and standard of which a student organization (such as ones that are affiliated with religions) may become a UCSO. Dr. Simmons clarified that university policy clearly states the criteria which student organizations must meet for them to be approved as a UCSO. Related university policies were made available previously. CSA members further inquired if MSU were approved as a UCSO, would current UCSO's resources be impacted. Mr. Chan and Dr. Simmons clarified that the pool of financial resources from student activity fees remains unchanged for the current year, however MSU becoming a UCSO will not impact other UCSOs this year as MSU had not and could not submit an annual funding proposal for 2016-17 last spring. The motion was made to approve MSU's application; it was seconded. MSU application was subsequently approved with one (1) opposing vote.

- **Student Budget Board**

The Student Budget Board has communicated to CSA prior to the meeting that it has rescinded budgetary request that was tabled by CSA on September 15th. Thus, no further action was taken.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Announcements**

- Mr. Saunders reminded CSA members that the Ring Premiere is on 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, in the Burruss Hall Auditorium.
- Ms. Cameron Varano announced that students and faculty members will be hosting part of the Virginia Science Festival on September 30th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Taubman Museum of Art.

- Ms. Maddie Mitcham announced that the Corps of Cadets class of 2020 will be participating in the first half of the Caldwell March, signifying the end of the first phase of their training.
- Ms. Allison Aviles Garcia announced that the Latino Association of Student Organizations will be holding their annual gala on October 7th at 7 p.m. in the Old Dominion Ballroom.
- Ms. Susan Anderson reminded CSA members that President Tim Sands will be giving his inaugural State of the University Address on September 30th 3:30 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center, and the Virginia Tech chapter of the "It's On Us" campaign against gender-based violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment will kickoff on October 5th.
- Mr. Chan announced that Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke will be at the next CSA meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled CSA meeting will be held on October 13, 2016, in the Brush Mountain Room at Squires Student Center.

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made at 4:44 and was passed unanimously.

Recorder: Tracy Newton