Minutes


Absent: Ron Daniel, Michael Dunleavy, Monika Gibson, Zenobia Hikes, Gary Kinder, Tanya LeRoith, Justin Reyes, Aaren Salido, Karen Sanders, LaChelle Waller, Brian Whitaker,

Guests: Steve Burrell, Christopher Clarke, Cindy Davis, Lauren Davis, Maureen Lawrence, Megan Moore, Taylor Powell

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sumeet Bagai, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Bagai called for adoption of the agenda and announced that under Old Business, items A and B (SGA Budget Board Resolution and GSA Budget Board Resolution) have been merged into one document and will be presented as such. He also announced an additional item has been added under New Business, E. CISO Constitutional Amendments. There was a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

III. Chair Report—Mr. Bagai asked everyone to stay until the end of the meeting if possible since there were several items requiring a vote.

IV. Old Business

A. SGA & GSA Budget Board Resolution (Second Reading) – Mr. James Tyger outlined the resolution and discussed changes they have made in response to recommendations at the first reading on March 1.
o There will be one board designated as the Registered Student Organization (RSO) Budget Board to allocate funding to all RSO’s.

o Membership of the RSO Budget Board will consist of six graduate and six undergraduate students appointed by SGA and GSA Presidents.

o The RSO Budget Board will be administratively chaired by the Assistant Director for Student Organizations and co-chaired by a student voted upon by the board.

o It will be the responsibility of the chair to ensure fair and equitable distribution of funds and to provide the annual funding strategy amounts to the board. The funding strategy is determined by the total dollar amount available to allocate and a review of the funding requests, their merit related to the organization’s mission and the justifiable needs. The chair will consult with the chair of the Student Budget Board (SBB) in development of the funding strategy and the SBB, a standing subcommittee of CSA, is the final authority in adopting the funding strategy for this board.

o This will be a two year pilot program, evaluated in spring 2008 and spring 2009. All findings will be reported to CSA at an April meeting.

o This change will take effect July 1, 2007.

Following a brief discussion, there was a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed.

B. SGA Core Curriculum Diversity Requirement Resolution (2nd reading)—Mr. James Tyger presented the resolution for second reading and he and Mr. Mike Taczak opened the floor for questions. There was a friendly amendment that the word “strict” be changed in the first resolved clause: “Be it resolved that the Virginia Tech student body officially recognizes the need for a strict diversity requirement in the undergraduate Curriculum for Liberal Education....” The amendment was accepted and Mr. Taczak indicated the wording could be changed to “stronger and more clearly and specifically defined diversity requirement....” After addressing other general questions about the document, there was a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed.

V. New Business

A. Nominations for Chair/Vice Chair for 2007-2008—Mr. Bagai and Mr. Cheatham discussed the responsibilities of the CSA chair and vice chair. The floor was opened for nominations for chair. Ms. Ann O’Neal and Mr. Ryan Smith were nominated and accepted the nomination. The floor was opened for nominations for vice chair. Ms. Amanda Beringer was nominated and accepted the nomination. Nominations will remain open via e-mail to Mr. Bagai or Mr. Cheatham through the start of the April 19 meeting, at which time the vote will take place. Self nominations are accepted.
Important Note: The final meeting of the year was cancelled due to the tragedy of April 16. The nominations will be taken again at the September 20, 2007, meeting and the election will take place at that time.

B. First Year Experience Committee Report — Ms. Amanda Olejarski reported that their committee has been working with Dr. Mike Ellerbrock to schedule the SACS/QEP Student Forum on April 19 at 12:30-2:00 p.m. in Squires Brush Mountain A & B. Students were encouraged to attend.

C. Budget Board Annual Funding Approval — Ms. Monica Hunter introduced students from the Student Budget Board who attended to answer questions. She then distributed copies of the Annual Funding documents for review and approval. Total funds available and appropriated for this funding cycle were $975,928. Mr. Greg Sagstetter asked if the review took place to ensure that underrepresented groups were treated fairly in the allocation process. Ms. Hunter responded that the review did take place and will become a permanent procedure at Dr. Hikes’ request. Mr. Bagai asked Mr. Steve Burrell to outline what happens now in the funding process. Mr. Burrell explained that once the budget has been approved by CSA, student organizations will be notified by letter of their funding amounts and given 14 days to appeal. Groups may appeal the funding recommendations for the following three reasons only: 1) established policies and procedures were not followed; 2) the organization was denied the opportunity to present significant evidence at the time of hearing; 3) the funding decision was arbitrary and capricious. The fact that the Board did not fund an item at the requested level does not constitute grounds for appeal. Mr. Bagai indicated that the vote needed to occur immediately to adhere to the time schedule for appeals. There was a motion to suspend the rules, allowing the vote to take place at first reading. The motion was seconded and passed. There was a motion to approve the budgets as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Burrell asked for volunteers to serve on the appeals committee. The chair must be a faculty or staff member. The committee will only meet if an appeal is submitted. Mr. Robert Sebek volunteered to serve as chair. Jackie Nicholson, Ryan Smith, and Amanda Beringer volunteered to serve as student members.

Ms. Hunter asked for feedback on the SBB process and several students thanked the group for the work they put into the process and for looking at the issues from previous years.

D. RHF Constitutional Amendments — Ms. Manisha Patel presented the RHF Constitutional Amendments for first reading and briefly outlined the changes. The changes relate to membership of the General Assembly
and how the meetings will be scheduled. The floor was opened for questions. There were some minor editorial suggestions. Second reading will take place on April 19.

E. **CISO Constitutional Amendments (First Reading)** — Mr. Paras Karki presented the CISO Constitutional Amendments for first reading and briefly explained the changes. The changes relate to eligibility of students holding a legal Visa or U.S. residency to serve as an officer in the organization, and automatic membership for registered student organizations who apply for membership in the organization. A brief question and answer period followed. Copies of the constitution will be e-mailed to CSA for consideration prior to second reading on April 19.

VI. **Committee Meetings**

Mr. Cheatham asked the committees to meet briefly after the meeting if they had any issues to discuss.

VII. **Open Forum**

VIII. **Announcements**

Mr. Mike Stoupa made the following VTU announcements: Soundfest Music Festival, April 14, 4:00 p.m., Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires; Rat Pack, April 18, 7:00 p.m., Burruss Auditorium; Movies — Smokin’ Aces, April 6, 8:00 p.m. and Pan’s Labyrinth, April 20, 8:00 p.m., in Colonial Hall, Squires; Water Wars, co-sponsored with RHF, will be held in April, with all proceeds going to Relay for Life.

Mr. James Tyger announced that the Big Event was a huge success, with 2,800 students completing over 400 jobs. Relay for Life is scheduled for April 20 and Virginia Tech is currently the fourth highest collegiate relay in the nation. The goal is $200,000. He then introduced the new SGA President for next year, Mr. Adeel Khan. Mr. Khan spoke briefly and then announced that the application for SGA Appointed Executive Positions will be sent out on the CSA listserv. The application deadline is April 13.

Mr. Tim Filbert announced that he has sent out applications for the Summer Leadership Employment Program and encouraged new officers of student organizations to apply.

Ms. Jory Ruscio announced that GSA would be holding the Spring Wine Social on April 13.
Mr. Kevin Denny announced the play, NWC, April 19, 7:30 p.m., Burruss Auditorium; and The Roots concert, April 26, 7:00 p.m., Burruss Auditorium.

Mr. Paras Karki announced the International Street Fair, April 14, in Downtown Blacksburg.

Mr. John Gray Williams announced the National Day of Silence on April 18. LGBT A will hold a silent vigil on the drillfield and a silent march in front of Owens on the 18th.

Mr. Bagai announced that Mr. Ryan Smith is new undergraduate representative to the Board of Visitors.

Ms. Monica Hunter announced that Mr. Heath Carter is on the homecoming court next year.

Mr. Bagai reminded group that nominations for chair and vice chair will remain open until the election takes place.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary