Commission on Student Affairs

February 16, 2006
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes

Present: Linsey Barker, Steve Burrell, Monika Gibson, Michael Goode, Caryl Gray, Jennifer Jessie, Jaquisha Kearson, Susie Kim, Erik Kneubuehl, Navin Manjooran, Brian Marroquin, Margaret McQuain, Laura Morgan, Jory Ruscio, Greg Sagstetter, Robert Sebek, Ed Spencer, Matt Streeter, James Tyger

Absent with Notice: Ron Daniel, Brandon Eason, Ginney Fowler, Zenobia Hikes, Jamie Kalista, Karen Sanders

Absent without Notice: Sumeet Bagai, Elizabeth Bieber, Tom Brown, Scott Cheatham, Michael Dunleavy, Ron Forbes, Megan Horan, David Jones, Gary Kinder, Sarah Saxton, Bhavik Shah, Brian Warren, Devin Weller, Brian Whitaker

I. Call to Order

Ms. Jory Ruscio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Ruscio called for adoption of the agenda. Mr. Tyger indicated that Mr. Bagai was absent, so the item on Course Withdraw Date Survey would need to be postponed until the next meeting. There was a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Chair Report

Ms. Ruscio reported that she sent a letter to the Provost regarding the HESA program, as discussed at the February 2 CSA meeting. She then asked Dr. Ed Spencer to provide an update on the situation.

IV. Old Business

- HESA Update - Dr. Spencer distributed a February 5 letter from Dean Jerry Niles regarding the latest information on the HESA program. Dr. Niles reiterated that all students currently enrolled in either the master’s or doctoral program will have the opportunity to complete their programs of study and degrees. They have also decided to continue the admission of doctoral students in higher education for Fall 2006. However, the moratorium on admission to the master’s program for Fall 2006 will remain in effect until the program can be reviewed.
During the question and answer period, Dr. Spencer was asked what impact this decision has had on the GA situation in Student Affairs, since the majority of GA’s are master’s students. Dr. Spencer said there has been an immediate impact. For example, Residence Life has only recruited six students for 16 GA positions for next year. In order to fill these positions, they are recruiting graduate students from other programs as well as undergraduates who are graduating in May but might want to stay for an extra year in a temporary position. They may also need to convert some of these positions to professional staff positions. Dr. Spencer was asked if they expect to have a problem with recruiting. Dr. Spencer said they do think it will be an issue. The annual recruiting weekend is scheduled for late February, and they expect to know more after that weekend is over.

- **Course Withdrawal Date - Survey** – Sumeet Bagai – Tabled until March 2.

V. New Business

- **Alcohol Awareness Sub-committee Report** – Dr. Margaret McQuain reported that the sub-committee met once and asked her to chair the committee. She indicated that Dr. Ron Daniel is out of the country and plans to discuss this topic with students who are studying abroad. She will be meeting with Mr. Steve Clarke to discuss what the College Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center is working on. Her desire is to create an atmosphere on campus to show that it’s fine not to drink alcohol and also to promote more responsible drinking for those who do. She asked those present to write down their thoughts about the alcohol situation on campus and pass them to her for discussion by the sub-committee. Dr. Spencer indicated that the university is developing a task force to study this problem and perhaps the sub-committee could work with the task force.

- **Parking & Transportation Sub-committee Report** – Mr. Erik Kneubuehl reported for Mr. David Jones, chair of the sub-committee. Mr. Jones collected all the parking resolutions that have been developed by CSA over the last few years. The resolutions have been forwarded to the sub-committee and they are currently studying the information. They plan to meet and discuss the issues. They will then meet with the Director of Transportation and Parking to discuss the resolutions and how they were handled by the Parking and Transportation Committee. Mr. James Tyger indicated that he is vice chair of the Parking and Transportation Committee and he recommended that any concerns about the resolutions be discussed directly with this committee. Mr. Tyger said the Parking and Transportation Committee is also studying parking at the Corporate Research Center, including increased bus routes, in light of Computer Science being moved to CRC.

- **Recreation Sub-committee Report** – Ms. Laura Morgan said their sub-committee has been looking into how student athletic tickets are distributed. The sub-committee is also studying how to prevent the selling of student tickets on eBay. Mr. Tyger said that the Athletics Department is working on this problem by checking eBay for student tickets. If student tickets are found for sale on eBay, those students are prevented from getting student tickets in the future. The sub-committee found that some schools scan tickets and student ids at the gate to ensure that the ticket holders are students. This isn’t an ideal
solution at Virginia Tech because Hokie Passports aren't validated and current students are obtaining student tickets and selling them to their friends who have already left the university but still have Hokie Passports. The commission expressed concern over group ticket sales and the number of tickets available for students. Several commission members had suggestions about unused tickets being sold or donated to students who were unable to obtain tickets to games. Ms. Ruscio asked the sub-committee to check into these concerns and suggestions and provide an update at the next meeting.

- **Campus Climate Sub-committee Report** – Mr. Navin Manjooran reported that their sub-committee has met once. They have discussed how the Principles of Community could be better implemented and how to make sure students know about it so they will feel welcome and safe on campus. The commission discussed several means of distributing the Principles to the campus population so that everyone on campus would be aware of the document and what it stands for.

VI. **Tabled**

- Undergraduate Representative to the BOV Selection Committee Procedures - 1st Reading - Bhavik Shah
- CISO Constitution Change

VII. **Announcements**

Ms. Laura Morgan announced that that the GSA Research Symposium would be taking place during Graduate Education Week. They also accept undergraduates in the Research Symposium. The call for abstracts is now open and information is available on the GSA web site. She asked that students share this information with their organizations.

Mr. James Tyger asked for update on SafeWatch and the problem they encountered a few weeks ago. Dr. Ed Spencer explained that SafeWatch is an on-line reporting site so that anyone on campus can report an incident of bias, i.e. a hate crime. You can report if something happens to you or if you are aware of something that happened to someone else. The program was finalized at the end of Fall Semester, and was being tested at the beginning of Spring Semester. In early February, Mr. Tom Brown was finalizing the test of the system. He had asked people to submit test cases, and while the test was being conducted an actual case came in without realizing it was a new case. It was human error and it has been corrected. They have also implemented a checking system so this won’t occur again. The website is available at [www.safewatch.vt.edu](http://www.safewatch.vt.edu).

Mr. Erik Kneubuehl announced two upcoming Lively Arts shows: Tap Dogs Rebooted in March and Lincoln Center Jazz in April. He also announced that the Homecoming Board was taking applications for the Homecoming Court. They have a new process this year that includes required information sessions for applicants or their organization representative. Dates for information sessions and interviews dates are available at [http://www.vthomecoming.org.vt.edu/](http://www.vthomecoming.org.vt.edu/).
Mr. Navin Manjooran announced that the deadline for submitting applications for the Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors was February 15. The top three candidates will be chosen to interview with the BOV on March 27.

Dr. Ed Spencer announced that Mr. Greg Sagstetter made the second team of the USA Today All American Academic Team.

Mr. Steve Burrell reported that Budget Board requests are in--76 organizations requested almost $1.7 million with only $845,000 to distribute. He plans to submit the budgets to CSA at the April 6 meeting. He explained the appeal process that is available to organizations, and asked that commission members consider serving on the appeals committee. Mr. Burrell also announced that applications will be taken soon for the Student Leadership Employment Program, which allows student organizations to submit applications for a student member of the organization to stay on campus this summer and work through the summer. He asked that student organizations discuss the program, and applications will be taken in March or April.

Ms. Jennifer Jessie announced that Take Back the Night will be held on March 30. She asked that groups consider signing up to be a sponsoring organization. There is no cost for being a sponsor.

Mr. Erik Kneubuehl announced that Student Leadership Awards will be held in April. Applications are due in early March, and nomination forms are available in the Student Activities office or on their website.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary