Commission on Student Affairs

February 2, 2006
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes


Absent with Notice: Monika Gibson, Zenobia Hikes, Navin Manjooran, Karen Sanders

Absent without Notice: Ron Daniel, Brandon Eason, Ron Forbes, Gary Kinder, Erik Kneubuehl, Sarah Saxton, Devin Weller, Brian Whitaker

I. Call to Order

Ms. Jory Ruscio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Ruscio called for adoption of the agenda. Mr. Michael Good requested that second reading of BSA Constitution Changes be given after the Chair Report. Mr. Scott Cheatham requested that a discussion of the removal of the HESA program be added under new business. There was a motion to approve the changes and adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Chair Report

Ms. Ruscio indicated that she had nothing to report.

IV. BSA Constitution Changes—2nd Reading

Mr. Michael Goode presented the Black Student Alliance Constitution Changes for second reading and outlined the changes. Following a brief question and answer period, there was a motion to adopt the changes. The motion was seconded and approved.

V. New Business

• Meeting March 16th → March 23rd

Ms. Ruscio announced that the commission meeting scheduled for March 16 has been moved to March 23, so that the annual presentation on Tuition & Fees could be given just prior to the March Board of Visitors meeting.
• **Course Withdrawal Date**

Ms. Margaret McQuain introduced the topic of course withdrawal dates. She indicated that she and others in the Mathematics Department have been concerned about the course drop date occurring before the final exam. She thinks students should be given the opportunity to take the final exam and then decide whether to drop the class. She wondered if students shared this concern. Following a discussion, it was decided that Mr. Sumeet Bagai will develop a student survey to determine if students are interested in pursuing a change in drop dates. He will bring the sample survey to the February 16 commission meeting for input and then go live with the survey. He will have the results by the March 2 CSA meeting. If there is enough student interest, the commission will work with the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies about the possibility of changing the drop date.

**VI. Old Business**

• **HESA Program**

Dr. Ed Spencer was asked to discuss the possible cancellation of the HESA program at the university. Dr. Spencer gave some background information on the program—Higher Education and Student Affairs. The program falls under the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the School of Education. The program has been very successful, however, it was recently announced that the program will likely be discontinued because it doesn’t fit into the School of Education’s focus on K-12 students. The floor was opened for discussion, and many commission members expressed concern over the possible cancellation of this program. There was a motion that Ms. Ruscio, chair, with the commission’s full backing, write a letter to Provost McNamee asking that the HESA program be reinstated. The motion was seconded and approved.

• **Sub-Committee Meetings**

Jory reminded the sub-committees that all sub-committees would be giving their presentations at the next meeting. The presentations should be limited to 15 minutes. Presentations should focus on the sub-committees assigned topics—suggesting solutions or alternative methods to solve the problems.

**VII. Tabled**

• **Undergraduate Representative to the BOV Selection Committee Procedure**

• **CISO Constitution Changes – 1st Reading – Bhavik Shah**

**VIII. Announcements**

Ms. Elizabeth Bieber made the following VTU announcements: Carbon Leaf concert on Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m., Burruss Auditorium; Build a Bear (for Valentine’s Day) on Feb. 9, all day, Norfolk Room, Squires; Broadway Valentine on Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., Burruss Auditorium. Weekend films have also resumed.
Mr. Sumeet Bagai announced that student governments across the state are participating in the Save 1246 petition campaign. The petition will be sent to state leaders and law makers in an effort to save $1,246 in tuition for Virginia college students. The petition is available at www.save1246.com. The results will be released on Thursday, Feb. 9. He encouraged student organizations to forward the information to their constituent groups. Mr. Bagai also announced that the Big Event will be held on April 1 and Relay for Life on April 21 and 22. Both groups are recruiting teams, including faculty, staff, and community members. More information is available on the SGA website at www.sga.vt.edu.

Mr. James Tyger announced that the Class of 2007 Ring Dance will be held on March 24 and 25. More details will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Steve Burrell announced that annual funding budgets were due by 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 3. He announced that the application deadline for graduate representative to the Board of Visitors has been extended until Feb. 15. He also announced that an e-mail went out to student organizations and advisors about reallocation of office space in Squires. Applications for office space are due in their office by Friday, February 17.

Mr. Michael Dunleavy announced that class officer elections for the Class of 2009 will be held in April. Information sessions about the election will be held on Feb. 13-15, 7:00 p.m., Williamsburg and Jamestown Rooms, Squires.

Ms. Susie Kim announced that AASU’s Taste of Asia would be held on Feb. 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Old Dominion Ballroom, Squires.

Ms. Jory Ruscio announced that the Graduate Life Center Speaker Series for Spring Semester would start on Feb. 3. The speaker on Feb. 3 was Dr. Djorde Minic from the Department of Physics. His topic was “What is string theory?” A list of speakers is available at www.grads.vt.edu/student_life/glc/speakers.html. All presentations begin at 4:30 p.m. in the GLC.

Ms. Megan Horan announced that “Destination: Spring Break! Are You Ready?” will be held at 6:00 p.m., Feb. 20, Owens Banquet Hall. The program focuses on having fun but being safe during Spring Break.

Mr. Scott announced the J-Crew sale taking place on Feb. 14-16, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary