I. Call to Order

Mr. Scott Cheatham, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Cheatham called for adoption of the agenda. There was a motion to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

III. Chair Report

IV. Old Business

a. University Honor System Review Committee – Mr. Cheatham reported that he and Mr. Bagai have met with Provost McNamee and Dr. Tom Walker, chair of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, to discuss the makeup of the Honor System Review Committee. Fourteen people have volunteered to serve on the committee, and six are students. One of the deans has been asked to serve as chair. Appointment letters will be sent out soon. Mr. Greg Sagstetter asked that CSA’s recommendation for an independent review be followed, and that only people with no previous experience with the Honor System be allowed to serve on the committee. Mr. Cheatham opened the floor for a brief discussion of the issues the review committee should look into. The following suggestions were made:
Study whether the current constitution of the Honor System serves the current needs. Does the university want the Honor System to remain a student-run system or become an administrative- or faculty-run system? Large institutions often use a mixed system where students take the lead but still work with administrators. The constitution needs to clarify how the system will be run.

Compare procedures to other land grant institutions and SCHEV peer institutions — i.e. length of time it takes to process a case, comparison to Judicial System and its processes, university resources devoted to Judicial System compared to resources devoted to Honor System.

Study faculty concerns about the requirement to give a grade when an Honor System is pending, rather than giving a student an Incomplete.

Look at Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) and the Center for Academic Integrity regarding their standards on academic integrity cases.

Interview faculty who have referred students to the Honor System, as well as those who haven’t. Also interview students who have been through the Honor System and those who haven’t. Ask how these groups would expect the system to work.

Compare to what resources are available to Graduate Honor System.

Consider ways that preventative education can be utilized if there are recommendations for better training on the Honor System.

Consider ways to streamline minor first-time offenses.

V. New Business

a. Introduction of Finalists for the BOV Student Representative — Mr. Cheatham announced that the three finalists for the position of 2007-2008 Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Visitors have been chosen. He asked Mr. James Tyger, chair of the selection committee, to introduce the finalists. Mr. Tyger thanked the students who served on the selection committee, then introduced the two candidates who were available to attend: Mr. Thomas (T.J.) Brennan, a junior in Political Science and Philosophy, and Mr. Ryan Smith, a junior in Psychology, Sociology, and Political Science. Mr. Tyger announced the third candidate is Ms. Mary Dickenson, who was unable to attend due to a class conflict. Ms. Dickenson is a junior in Dairy Science, Pre-Vet option.

b. SGA and GSA Budget Board Changes (First Reading) — Mr. James Tyger, president of SGA, and Ms. Jory Ruscio, president of GSA, distributed and discussed legislation calling for the names of the SGA and GSA Budget Boards to be changed. The purpose of the SGA and GSA Budget Boards is to recommend allocation of funds to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). They feel that including SGA and GSA in the name of the budget boards is confusing for the students in RSOs. The students often contact SGA and GSA with questions, when SGA and GSA don’t have anything to do with the funding process. The legislation calls
for the name of the SGA Budget Board to be changed to Undergraduate Registered Student Organization Budget Board and for the GSA Budget Board to be changed to Graduate Registered Student Organization Budget Board. The legislation also states that GSA is opposed to the joining of the SGA Budget Board and the GSA Budget Board to the RSO Budget Board without further discussion with the GSA. Ms. Monica Hunter, chair of the Student Budget Board, commented that they have considered making one RSO Budget Board that would combine the funds for undergraduate and graduate RSOs, but they would meet with the SGA and GSA before making any changes. Mr. Cheatham asked the parties involved to discuss possible changes in the coming weeks. Second reading will take place at the March 22 meeting.

c. **RSO Budget Board potential changes feedback** — Mr. Cheatham opened the floor for further discussion of the potential combination of the undergraduate and graduate RSO Budget Boards into one board. Mr. Tyger said the main problem is that we don’t have enough funds for student organizations and we need to study ways to increase the pool of money — even if it means raising student activity fees. Ms. Ruscio doesn’t feel combining the graduate and undergraduate boards would increase available funds for graduate students. Graduate student organizations pay a larger portion of activity fees than they receive back in budget board funding. Mr. Steve Burrell, former chair of the SBB, shared statistics of funding requests for this year and previous years. He said that 13 graduate organizations have requested annual funding through GSA Budget Board this year and seven graduate student groups have requested small grants. Last year 21 graduate student organizations were registered, so nearly 100% of the registered graduate organizations are requesting funds this year. This is the first year the graduate pool of money has been used fully. In comparison, 13 University Chartered Student Organizations (UCSOS) requested annual funding, 44 requested funds from SGA Budget Board, and typically four additional groups request small grants. Ms. Monika Gibson asked if this information could be shared in writing with the commission. Mr. Burrell reminded the commission that these discussions are in the preliminary stages and there is no formal proposal to make changes at this point. Before any changes are made, this type of information will be shared in writing with the commission. Ms. Hunter indicated that the SBB funding recommendations for next year will be brought to CSA for approval at the April 5th meeting.

d. **Presentation on Search Committees** — Dr. Cynthia Bonner, Chief of Staff and Director of Administration for the Division of Student Affairs, discussed two searches that are on-going — Dean of Students and Vice President for Multicultural Affairs. Candidates for these two positions will be on campus during the coming weeks. She asked students to volunteer to have lunch and dinner with the candidates during the
interviews, and circulated a sign-up sheet for those interested in participating. The candidate names are confidential, but she will send resumes and more information once it becomes available.

Dr. Bonner also announced that the University Library is interested in doing a collaborative project with Student Affairs on procuring more audio books for the library. Dr. Bonner polled the students about their interest in the university purchasing more audio books. Several students said the Blacksburg library has a wide selection of audio books and wondered if the university needs to invest the money. Some students also said they prefer to listen to audio books on their iPods. Dr. Bonner thanked the students for their feedback.

VI. Committee Meetings

Mr. Tim Filbert said the First Year Experience Committee met before the CSA meeting and would like the commission’s reaction to a couple of things. He indicated that Dr. Mike Ellerbrock is interested in CSA organizing a town hall meeting for students in order to get feedback on the QEP process. There is some concern that a town hall meeting may not work because students don’t attend them very well. The committee was wondering if it would be more effective to schedule time with some of the major student organizations to discuss the QEP. He asked for students to give their feedback on the best way to engage students. Mr. Kevin Denny suggested they change the name from town hall meeting to something such as “You Talk—We Listen” so students will know their voices are being heard. Mr. Ryan Smith said he would be interested in doing a student survey about first-year experience and volunteered to talk with the committee about this. Following this discussion, the committees met for 15 minutes then the full commission meeting resumed.

VII. Announcements

Mr. Cheatham reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held on March 22 not March 15, as originally scheduled. The reason for the change is to allow Mr. Dwight Shelton and Mr. Tim Hodge to give their annual presentation on tuition and fees just prior to the Board of Visitors meeting.

Mr. Mike Stoupa made the following announcements for VTU: Ben Folds concert, 7:30 p.m., March 27, Burruss Auditorium; An Evening with Dr. Ruth, 7:30 p.m., March 12, Burruss Auditorium; Campus Comedy Challenge, 7:00 p.m., March 15, Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires; and the movie “Happy Feet,” 8:00 p.m., March 16, Colonial Hall, Squires.

Mr. James Tyger announced that VT’s Relay for Life is currently the sixth highest collegiate relay in the nation. It will be held on April 20 and teams may sign up at www.sga.vt.edu. The Big Event is scheduled for March 31,
and they are still accepting community service jobs to be performed that day. These forms are also available at the SGA website. Campaigning for SGA election starts today. Elections will be held on March 27-28. Elections will be held on-line at the SGA website. He also announced that the 2008 ACC Leadership Conference will be held here next spring. Virginia Tech is hosting the conference for the first time.

Mr. Adeel Khan announced that the Class of 2008 Ring Dance is at 8:00 p.m., March 24, Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires. Minority turnout at these events has been down and Mr. Khan asked to meet with representatives from BSA and BSO after the meeting to discuss how they can increase minority attendance. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Ms. Monica Hunter congratulated Ms. Ashley Anderson on being selected Vice President for Homecoming Court next year. She reminded everyone that applications for Homecoming Court are due on March 2 by 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Ashley Anderson announced that BSA is hosting the movie “Blood Diamonds” on March 13 and The Roots concert at 8:00 p.m., April 26, Burruss Auditorium.

Ms. LaChelle Waller announced the GSA Gala will be held at 6:30 p.m., March 23, Holiday Inn.

Mr. Tim Filbert announced that the Summer Leadership Employment Program (SLEP) will be held again this summer. Organizations should think about which officers they would to participate in the program. Contact him for more information. Applications will be available in mid to late March.

Ms. Frances Keene announced that Dr. Gail Dines will speak on “Sex(ism), Identity, and Intimacy in a Pornographic Culture” at 6:00 p.m., March 14, Haymarket Theater, Squires.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary