Commission on Student Affairs
March 22, 2007
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes

Present: Ashley Anderson, Sumeet Bagai, Amanda Beringer, Virgilio Centeno, Scott Cheatham, Kristin Clarke, Heath Carter for Rob Dalton, Ron Daniel, Michael Dunleavy, Rick Ferraro, Tim Filbert, Monika Gibson, Zenobia Hikes, Monica Hunter, Frances Keene, Adeel Khan, Gary Kinder, Amanda Olejarski, Manisha Patel, Jory Ruscio, Greg Sagstetter, Sarah Saxton, Robert Sebek, Mike Stoupa, James Tyger, LaChelle Waller, Brian Whitaker

Absent: Saurabh Attarde, Tanya LeRoith, Ennis McCrery, Margaret McQuain, Shane Moore, Jacqueline Nicholson, Ann O’Neal, Aaren Salido, Karen Sanders, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Justin Reyes, John Gray Williams

Guests: Steve Burrell, Tim Hodge, Maureen Lawrence, Dwight Shelton

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sumeet Bagai, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Bagai called for adoption of the agenda. He announced two changes to the agenda: 1) The Chair Report will be moved after the Special Presentation on Tuition and Fees. 2) Under Old Business, the item on SGA and GSA Budget Board Changes is tabled. There was a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

III. Special Presentation

Tuition and Fees—Mr. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Budget and Financial Management, thanked the group for the good turnout for the annual presentation on tuition and fees. He stressed that the Board of Visitors has the full authority to establish tuition and fees, and the budget office only makes recommendations. The Finance and Audit Committee of the BOV will review the recommendations on Monday morning, March 26, and the full board will take the final vote that afternoon. He asked the commission to keep the information confidential until the BOV takes action; then they are free to discuss the process with their organizations and classmates.
Mr. Shelton turned the meeting over to Mr. Tim Hodge, University Budget Director, who gave a presentation on the tuition and fee development process. Mr. Hodge shared the proposed tuition and fee increases: undergraduate in-state 6.1%; undergraduate out-of-state 3.8%; graduate in-state 5.2%; graduate out-of-state 9.2%; veterinary medicine in-state 8.2%; veterinary medicine out-of-state 6.5%. The comprehensive fee will increase $77; the room and board fee will increase $340. In addition, the engineering freshmen and incoming engineering graduate students will have a $135 per semester engineering fee. He concluded his presentation by comparing our tuition and fees with those of our peer institutions.

During the question and answer period, Mr. James Tyger asked how they arrived at a $2 increase for Student Budget Board (SBB) under comprehensive fees. Dr. Zenobia Hikes stated that Student Affairs requested a $70,000 increase for SBB, and the $2 increase per student was a result of this request. They will continue to assess this in future years to see if more money is needed for SBB. Mr. Sagstetter pointed out that the budget office has helped pass measures to make the university more energy efficient, rather than charging students a green fee, even though students had agreed the green fee was something they were willing to pay in order to make the university more efficient. Mr. Bagai thanked Mr. Shelton and Mr. Hodge for their presentation.

IV. Chair Report

V. Old Business

a. SGA and GSA Budget Board Changes – Item tabled.

VI. New Business

a. Resolution from SGA Regarding Core Curriculum Requirement (first reading) – Ms. Sarah Saxton distributed for first reading “Resolution of Support for a Diversity Requirement in the Undergraduate Curriculum for Liberal Education” which was passed by SGA on March 13, 2007. The resolution calls for a strict diversity requirement in the undergraduate curriculum for Liberal Education, requiring students to choose at least three credit hours from a list of identified courses with a central and significant focus on diversity or multicultural perspectives. The resolution also “recommends that one way that this might be accomplished would be to rearrange courses from existing areas, particularly areas 2 and 7 of the current undergraduate Curriculum for Liberal Education, and group courses with a central and significant focus on diversity and multicultural perspective into a single area to replace an old area.” The SGA is requesting the commission’s support for the resolution. The floor was opened for questions, and several commission members questioned whether the curriculum could be rearranged to meet these requirements and whether there would be enough classes to meet the requirements.
They asked SGA to please check into this and to provide clarification. Second reading will take place on April 5.

VII. Committee Meetings – Tabled in the interest of time.

VIII. Announcements

Mr. James Tyger announced that SGA elections will be held on March 27 and 28. He encouraged students to vote online at www.sga.vt.edu. The Big Event will be held at 10:00 a.m., March 31, beginning on the Drillfield. They already have over 2,000 student volunteers and 250 jobs planned in the Blacksburg and Montgomery County area. Relay for Life has moved into fourth place in collegiate relays in the nation, and fundraising will continue until the event on April 20.

Mr. Greg Sagstetter announced that the Board of Visitors will meet on March 25 and 26. He invited students to e-mail him if they have comments about the tuition and fee increase that he should share with the board. He also announced that Dr. Chris Clement is giving a lecture on March 26, 7:00 p.m. in 223 Engel Hall.

Ms. Ashley Anderson announced that The Roots concert is April 26, 8:00 p.m., Burruss Auditorium.

Mr. Mike Stoupa announced that VTU has two upcoming movies: “Children of Men” on March 23 and “Dreamgirls” on March 30. Both will show at 8:00 p.m. in Squires Colonial Hall. The Ben Folds concert is March 27, 7:30 p.m., Burruss Auditorium. The play “Lost in Yonkers” is March 29, 7:30 p.m., in Burruss Auditorium.

Mr. Sumeet Bagai announced that CSA has only two more meetings this year—April 5 and 19. Any issues that need to be addressed this year should be submitted as agenda items for the next meeting on April 5. Mr. Scott Cheatham reminded the student organizations that any constitutional changes must be approved by CSA and to please submit any changes for first reading on April 5. Mr. Bagai also announced that the Honor System Review Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks to review the Honor System. He should have a list of committee members to share with the commission by the April 5 meeting.

Mr. Tim Filbert announced that the First Year Experience subcommittee is planning a student forum on April 19 from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Students attending the forum will also be asked to provide feedback for the QEP process. They hope for a good student turnout at the forum. If other subcommittees would like their topics to be covered, please let Mr. Filbert know.

Mr. Mike Dunleavy announced that Ring Dance will be held on March 24, 8:00 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires.
Dr. Zenobia Hikes announced that a couple of CSA members will be honored at the Student Recognition Banquet on April 14.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary