Commission on Student Affairs
March 23, 2006
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes


Absent with Notice: Margaret McQuain, Brian Warren

Absent without Notice: Jennifer Crook, Michael Dunleavy, Brandon Eason, Ron Forbes, Gary Kinder, Devin Weller, Brian Whitaker

Guests: Tim Hodge, Frances Keene, Ennis McCrery, Ray Plaza, Greg Sagstetter, Marc Saint Raymond, Ashley Shew, Ryan Smith, Ken Stanton

I. Call to Order

Ms. Jory Ruscio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Ruscio called for adoption of the agenda. Mr. Brian Marroquin made a motion to add “Clarification on UCSO Policies.” Dr. Hikes made a motion to add an item regarding “Gateway 2006.” Both items will be added near the beginning of Old Business. There was a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Chair Report

Ms. Ruscio indicated she had nothing to report.

IV. Old Business

• Clarification on UCSO Policies – Mr. Brian Marroquin stated that LASO is planning to file a grievance through CSA in order to clarify whether there are institutional policies that require UCSOs and RSOs to collaborate or participate with faculty/staff caucuses. LASO is concerned about the actions of the Hispanic Faculty Staff Caucus in relation to student organizations that fall under LASO. Once the grievance is filed, LASO would like CSA to
determine common practices with other UCSOs in regard to external organizations or other student groups so that policies can be clear in the future. Mr. Ray Plaza, chair of the Hispanic Caucus, requested that he be invited to attend the meeting where the grievance is discussed so he can express the views of the caucus.

- **Update on Principles of Community Posters** – Mr. Ray Plaza announced that the Principles of Community celebrated its first anniversary on March 14. In celebration of the anniversary, three new posters have been released. Each poster includes the full listing of the principles and focuses on one of the three main affirmations. He brought copies of the three posters for all commission members.

- **Gateway 2006** – Dr. Zenobia Hikes announced that Gateway 2006 would be held on April 7th and 8th. Gateway is a program designed to provide an up-close look at Virginia Tech for students of color who have been offered admission to Tech. The participants will stay overnight on campus with a student host, and the program needed 50 additional on-campus students to volunteer as hosts. Dr. Hikes encouraged the student leaders to volunteer and also to share the information with their organizations. She distributed registration forms and requested that interested students turn in their forms at the end of the meeting, if possible.

- **Introductions of Graduate Representative to BOV Finalists** – Mr. Navin Manjooran asked the three candidates for the position of Graduate Representative to the BOV to introduce themselves and speak briefly about their qualifications and backgrounds. The three candidates are: Ms. Ennis McCrey, Ms. Ashley Shew, and Mr. Ken Stanton. The three will interview with the BOV on March 27.

- **Introductions of Undergraduate Representative to BOV Finalists** – Ms. Jennifer Jessie introduced the three candidates for the position of Undergraduate Representative to the BOV and spoke briefly about their qualifications. The three candidates are: Mr. Greg Sagstetter, Mr. Marc Saint Raymond, and Mr. Ryan Smith. These candidates will also interview with the BOV on March 27, and the top candidate for each position will be presented to the full Board for approval at their afternoon session.

- **University Policies for Student Life, 2nd Reading** – Ms. Frances Keene presented “CSA Resolution 2005-2006A: Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life” for second reading and explained the proposed changes. Part I of the resolution pertains to Sharing Information with the Undergraduate and Graduate Honor Systems. Part II of the resolution pertains to Withholding Academic Degrees for Serious Misconduct.

During the discussion period, Ms. Monika Gibson commented that neither the Graduate School nor the Graduate Honor System (GHS) was contacted or consulted about the changes proposed in the resolution, which she found regrettable. The current GHS constitution disallows information sharing with any other unit, unless the penalty reaches a level where the penalty is noted
on the student’s transcript, in which case it would automatically be shared with anyone who has access to the transcript. A change to the GHS constitution would be necessary to comply with the proposed new policy. The commission discussed how this would affect the proposed policy, and it was decided that the GHS could decide whether to change their constitution if/when the UPSL policy is approved. Following the discussion period, the two parts of the resolution were voted on separately. Both parts of the resolution were approved by the commission.

Ms. Keene indicated that she had an additional amendment that has been introduced since the last meeting. The amendment is a “reciprocity agreement” with other universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. If a student from another Virginia institution visits our campus and causes serious problems or damage, it will be reported to their home institution. Ms. Keene will send the amendment in resolution format to the commission via e-mail and ask for comments. She then asked Dr. Hikes to comment. Dr. Hikes reminded the commission of several bias related incidents that occurred on campus during fall semester, and some were committed by non-Virginia Tech students. This resolution will clarify that these incidents will be reported to their institutions. We want others to know they can’t come on campus and cause problems because it will be reported back to their institutions. The amended resolution will be presented at the next meeting.

- **Course Withdrawal Survey** – Mr. Sumeet Bagai distributed copies of the updated Course Withdrawal Survey and The Freshman Rule (Policy Memorandum No. 69, Clarified). He asked that any comments be e-mailed to him at sbagai@vt.edu. He will go live with the survey as soon as possible.

### V. New Business

- **Update on Tuition and Fees** – Mr. Dwight Shelton thanked the commission for the opportunity to give the annual tuition and fees presentation. The Board of Visitors will meet on Monday, March 27, and will consider a number of issues, including tuition and fee rates for 2006-2007. He asked that all information be kept confidential until the BOV approves the rates on March 27. Mr. Shelton indicated that the General Assembly has passed management agreements for Virginia Tech, William and Mary, and Univ. of Virginia for their Restructuring Act. If the governor approves the management agreements, they will become effective July 1, 2006.

The 2006 General Assembly has not completed the 2006-2008 budget, and they still hope that Virginia Tech’s budget will improve under the approved budget. Virginia Tech’s tuition and fees must be established at the March BOV meeting so that students and families can plan and financial aid packages can be developed. Since the General Assembly’s budget is not complete, assumptions have been made about General Fund support so that rates may be proposed.

Mr. Shelton turned the meeting over to Mr. Tim Hodge who discussed how tuition and fees are determined and how fees are used to support various areas of the university. Mr. Hodge requested benchmarking from the Student
Budget Board so they can look into funding increases in future years. They need to determine whether the $25,000 increase per year for the last two years has been sufficient. Mr. Hodge shared the proposed tuition and fee increases for undergraduate, graduate, and veterinary medicine students. He concluded his presentation by comparing our tuition and fees with those of our peer institutions.

During the question and answer period, they addressed questions about how specific costs were determined and how Virginia Tech compares with other in-state universities. Mr. Sumeet Bagai thanked them for the presentation and asked that similar information be shared with students and parents. Mr. Bagai encouraged them to meet with other student groups, put out press releases, and show updates on the university website. Ms. Ruscio thanked Mr. Shelton and Mr. Hodge for their presentation.

VI. Announcements

Ms. Ruscio reminded the commission to pick up their Principles of Community posters and to turn in the Gateway 2006 registration forms.

Mr. James Tyger welcomed the BOV candidates to the meeting and wished them luck during their interviews. He announced that the Class of 2007 Ring Dance and Banquet would be held on March 24 and 25. He also announced that SGA elections would be held on March 28 and 29, and encouraged everyone to vote.

Ms. Elizabeth Bieber made the following VTU announcements: Tap Dogs Rebooted on March 24 in Burruss Auditorium; a free music festival all afternoon on April 1 in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires; the Wailers will perform on April 24 in Colonial Hall, Squires.

Mr. Sumeet Bagai asked that student groups pass the word to all undergraduates that voting for SGA elections is available online at www.sga.vt.edu/elections. He reminded those who were still interested in running for student senate seats that petitions were due at midnight on March 24. There will be a survey about the Green Fee on the elections website the week of March 27. They will also have a slogan contest for next year’s Orange and Maroon Effect on the elections website. The Big Event will be held on April 1. It is a day of community service, and they have exceeded the job goal of 250 jobs. They need more students to work that day, so he asked that students encourage their organizations to participate. Relay for Life is on April 21 and 22. SGA co-sponsors the event with the American Cancer Society. They have already raised nearly $60,000 a month in advance of the event. He encouraged faculty and staff to participate as well; it’s not a student only event.

Mr. Matt Streeter announced the following LGBTA events: Gay Awareness Week on March 27-31; speaker John Corvino on March 28 in Colonial Hall, Squires, discussing homosexuality from a moral and religious standpoint; a debate on gay marriage with Jason West and Robert Knight on March 31 in Commonwealth Ballroom.
VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary