Present: Tapasvi Bhargava, Elizabeth Bieber, Tom Brown, Steve Burrell, Brandon Easton, Ron Forbes, Ginny Fowler, Monika Gibson, Michael Goode, Zenobia Hikes, Jennifer Jessie, David Jones, Jamie Kalista, Jaquisha Kearson, Susie Kim, Erik Kneubuehl, Navin Manjooran, Brian Marroquin, Margaret McQuain, Laura Morgan, Jory Zmuda Ruscio, Elaine Humphrey for Karen Sanders, Robert Sebek, Ed Spencer, Paula Spruill, Matt Streeter, James Tyger

Absent with Notice: Sumeet Bagai, Linsey Barker, Scott Cheatham, Caryl Gray, Brian Warren, Brian Whitaker

Absent without Notice: Ron Daniel, Michelle Dillon, Michael Dunleavy, Gary Kinder, Devin Weller

Guests: Steve Clarke, Kay Heidbreder, Noah Lichtig, Ginny Martin, Ben Poquette

I. Call to Order

Ms. Jory Zmuda Ruscio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Ms. Ruscio announced that Mr. Scott Cheatham, Vice Chair, was absent and asked for a volunteer to serve as Vice Chair during the meeting. Mr. Ron Forbes volunteered.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Ruscio called for adoption of the agenda. Mr. David Jones made a motion to table the second reading of the Black Organization Council constitution changes until the November 3 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. 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. New Business

• Student Organization Status

Ms. Kay Heidbreder, Associate General Counsel, discussed the issue of advisors for student organizations. This issue dates back to the "U-Haul Case" at the University of Virginia in the 1980s. A UVA fraternity rented a U-Haul truck and ordered several pledges into the back of the truck and took them on a road trip. There was a lot of drinking, an accident occurred during the trip, and several of the pledges were seriously injured. A lawsuit was filed against the fraternity, the president of the fraternity (because he had rented the U-Haul), and the university. The case went to a jury trial, and the jury had to determine whether the university was liable because the fraternity had rented the U-Haul truck. The case was settled, but the jury would have ruled that the university was liable even though they had no knowledge that the fraternity was planning to rent the truck. The key to this decision was the fact that UVA required advisors, and the advisors should have been able to control the actions of the fraternity.

As a result of the “U-Haul Case,” most colleges and universities in the state reevaluated their policies for student organizations. Virginia Tech developed a study committee to review the relationship between the university and its student organizations on campus. The study committee recommended three categories of student organizations: 1) University Student Life Programs (USLP)—programs that are part of the university, such as the Honor System. These organizations are treated the same as any department on campus in terms of university responsibility for their actions. 2) University Chartered Student Organizations (UCSO)—these have a close university connection but are not technically part of the university. The university has an oversight responsibility for their actions. 3) Registered Student Organizations (RSO)—most student organizations are RSOs. The RSOs must register with the university each year and the registration form is a type of contract that outlines their relationship with the university. For example, they are not part of the university and the university does not control the organization, however the organization still gets certain benefits by being affiliated with the university.

It was also the recommendation of the study committee that faculty advisors would not be required for student organizations. The Board of Visitors adopted a resolution that established the three-tiered scheme of student organizations and determined that mandatory faculty advisors would not be required. The student organizations may choose to select an advisor, but it is not mandatory. Ms. Heidbreder concluded her presentation with a question and answer period.

• College Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center

Mr. Steve Clarke, Director of the College Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center, gave a brief overview of his program and some activities they are engaged in. The program began in 1999 after a series of student deaths on campus in 1997 and 1998. The center was originally housed in the office of Vice President for Student Affairs but have since relocated to McComas Hall as a department in Commission on Student Affairs
the Schiffert Health Center. The center’s mission is to educate students so they can make informed decisions about alcohol consumption. The center’s main goal and charge from the university is to reduce high-risk drinking. The center’s education efforts include: providing presentations in classes and to other groups on campus; creating and producing brochures; coordinating specific projects on community issues; coordinating designated driver programs; and promoting drinking moderation in order to reduce harm associated with the use of alcoholic beverages.

The Center currently has three funded projects. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism is funding two of these projects: 1) the center is working with fraternities to study how environmental factors might affect alcohol consumption and 2) they are collecting information about alcohol consumption at tailgate parties on campus. The third project is funded by the Department of Education. This project is an intervention program to address drinking on 21st birthdays among students.

Mr. Clarke gave a presentation to the University Athletic Committee on October 19 and shared information collected on tailgate parties. An area of concern is the commuter lot behind Derring Hall. This parking lot has become a tailgating area for students even though this lot is not designated as an ABC area. The opposing fans and the public park in this area as well, and it’s the first impression many of these people get of the university. Over 50 complaints have been reported in this parking lot and the Athletics Committee asked him to address this problem right away. Mr. Clarke will be contacting the students on the commission for their input on how to address this situation.

Mr. Clarke concluded his presentation with a question and answer period. He also distributed handouts on a student leisure time survey and the results of the CIRCLE Network study conducted in 2000.

V. Old Business

• Undergraduate BOV Selection Committee Nominations

Ms. Jennifer Jessie, the Undergraduate Representative to the BOV, announced that the Undergraduate BOV Selection Committee will be meeting soon and they need seven undergraduate student members from CSA to serve on this committee. The selection committee will meet on Thursdays. They will review the applications, decide on the interview questions, interview the top six candidates, and choose the top three candidates who will interview with the BOV. The floor was opened for nominations, and the following people were nominated: James Tyger, Scott Cheatham, David Jones, Michael Goode, Brandon Eason, Paula Spruill, Susie Kim, Brian Marroquin, and Matt Streeter.

Ms. Ruscio indicated that nominations will remain open until the next meeting on November 3. Nominations may be e-mailed to Ms. Ruscio at jzmuda@vt.edu until the next meeting. Elections for the seven committee members will take place at the November 3 meeting. It was pointed out that anyone planning to apply for the BOV undergraduate position should not serve
on the selection committee. Ms. Jessie invited people to contact her at jJessie@vt.edu with any questions about the undergraduate BOV position.

• VTU Constitution Change – 2nd Reading –

Ms. Elizabeth Bieber presented the Virginia Tech Union constitution changes for second reading. There was a motion to approve the constitution changes. The motion was seconded and approved.

• BOC Constitution Change – 2nd Reading

The second reading of the Black Organizations Council constitution changes has been tabled until the November 3 meeting.

• SBB Policies & Procedures Changes – 2nd Reading

Mr. Steve Burrell presented the Student Budget Board policies and procedures changes for second reading. Mr. Burrell indicated that some questions came up at the first reading in regard to funding decisions. The budget board is still studying these issues, and they will be addressed by the time the funding process takes place in March. There was a motion to approve the changes to the policies and procedures. The motion was seconded and approved.

• USA Today Readership Program

Ms. Ruscio opened the floor for discussion of the USA Today Readership Program, which was introduced at the October 6 meeting. If implemented, the program would increase student fees by $5-10 per student per year. The student representatives were asked to discuss the program with their organizations and report back with comments and level of interest. Most student representatives reported that while their organizations felt it was a good program, they weren’t interested in seeing their student fees increased to cover the cost. As an alternative, several expressed interest in reduced rates for students for on-line subscriptions to newspapers. Mr. Robert Sebek reported that the library already has on-line subscriptions for hundreds of newspapers and they are available for students, faculty, and staff. The papers are available at: http://www.lib.vt.edu/find/news/index.htm.

Dr. Ed Spencer, who has served as the contact with USA Today, thanked the group for their input and ideas. He will contact USA Today and let them know we won’t go forward with the readership program because we didn’t have strong student support for the program.

VI. Announcements

Ms. Jory Ruscio announced that the next CSA meeting will be held on November 3. Agenda items for this meeting will be due by Friday, October 28. She thanked Mr. Forbes for sitting in as vice chair for the day.
Mr. Steve Burrell announced that as of Tuesday, October 18, a total of 557 student organizations had registered with Student Activities. The breakdown is: 16 UCSOs; 29 USLPs; 512 RSOs—414 of which listed advisors on their registration form, leaving only 98 without advisors. This is a much higher number of advisors than normal.

Ms. Jaquisha Kearson asked that anyone attending the Boston College football game on October 27 to please bring school supplies for Iraqi children. The Corps will be collecting these supplies at the game.

Mr. Navin Manjooran announced that the commission could disregard an e-mail he sent the previous day regarding a forum to discuss campus climate and diversity. The forum will be rescheduled and he will be in touch with the new date.

Mr. Tapasvi Bhargava announced that the Dance of Nations would be held on October 31 at 6:30 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires.

Mr. James Tyger announced that the Miami football game on November 5 will be the Maroon Effect game and he encouraged everyone to wear their Maroon Effect t-shirts.

Mr. Steve Burrell introduced Ms. Ginny Martin, Chair of the SGA Budget Board, and Mr. Noah Lichtig, Vice Chair of the Student Budget Board. Mr. Patrick Washington, Chair of the GSA Budget Board, was unable to attend. You may contact them with questions about the budget board. Mr. Burrell also announced that annual funding workshops will start on October 31.

Dr. Zenobia Hikes invited all student representatives and their organizations to attend the University Life Roundtable on October 24, 6:30 p.m. in Owens Banquet Hall.

Mr. Erik Kneubuehl announced that twelve positions on the Homecoming Board will be opening up in November. Applications are available on the Homecoming website at: http://www.vthomecoming.org.vt.edu/Docs/boardapp.pdf.

Mr. Navin Manjooran and Ms. Jory Ruscio announced that Dr. Jorge Cham would present “The Power of Procrastination” at the Graduate Life Center’s Speaker Series on Friday, October 28, 5:00 p.m. in the GLC Auditorium. Coffee and refreshments will be available at 4:00 p.m. and a book signing will follow at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Manjooran also introduced Mr. Ben Poquette, editor in chief of the Journal of Undergraduate Materials Research. This book is the first journal that features undergraduate research writings. The Fall 2005 issue is the inaugural issue.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sanzenbach, Recording Secretary