Commission on Student Affairs

October 6, 2005
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes


Absent with notice:  Caryl Gray, Margaret McQuain, Brian Warren

Absent without notice:  Ron Daniel, Michelle Dillon, Gary Kinder, Erik Kneubuehl

Visitors:  Doug Frasier, Pat Hyer, Ray Plaza, Jill Pulver

I.  Call to Order

Ms. Jory Zmuda Ruscio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II.  Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Ruscio called for adoption of the agenda.  Mr. Sumeet Bagai made a motion to add “Presentation on the BOV Selection Process for the Undergraduate Representative” under New Business.  The motion was seconded and approved.  Ms. Ruscio made a motion to add “Comments from the Chair” after adoption of agenda.  The motion was seconded and approved.  There was a motion to adopt the agenda as amended.  The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Comments from the Chair

Based on discussions from the brainstorming session on September 15, Ms. Ruscio has determined the top five agenda items and the commission will focus on these items this year:

1)  Integrating Principles of Community into the student organizations and campus
2)  Campus climate
3)  Alcohol awareness on campus
4)  University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO) accountability
5)  Faculty advisors for student organizations
Ms. Ruscio is planning to have presentations on these topics at the next few meetings and then the commission will break into subcommittees to study the issues further.

Ms. Ruscio also announced that she has discussed the parking resolutions from two years ago with Mr. Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation. Several parking resolutions were passed by the commission but were turned down by the Parking and Transportation Committee. Mr. Mouras indicated the resolutions were turned down because they were never formally presented to the Parking and Transportation Committee. The commission decided to invite Mr. Mouras and Mr. Richard McCoy, Parking Manager, to attend a future meeting so the resolutions can be presented to them for review by the Parking and Transportation Committee.

IV. New Business

- Proposal from USA Today —Jill Pulver

Ms. Jill Pulver and Mr. Doug Fraser from USA Today attended the meeting to discuss The Collegiate Readership Program. USA Today and a combination of local, regional and/or national newspapers (chosen for distribution by each college or university) are delivered each weekday morning to displays located on campus. Students may then select one or more of the newspapers daily. The costs for the program vary, depending on how many different papers are delivered each day and the total number of papers consumed. The university is only charged for papers that are picked up. The average cost is $5-10 per student per year. All newspapers are provided at a discounted educational rate. The readership program is also responsible for recycling the used and unused papers.

The readership program is available at no cost during a four-week pilot program, and the university is under no obligation to sign up if interest in the program is low. Ms. Pulver indicated the pilot program could be put in place before the end of fall semester.

Dr. Ed Spencer said if this program is to go forward we will need strong student support because the expense to the university would be covered by increased student fees.

Following the question and answer period, Dr. Spencer asked the student organizations to discuss the program and costs with their groups. The commission will continue the discussion at the October 20 meeting and decide whether to proceed.

Ms. Pulver thanked the group for allowing them to attend the meeting. More information about the program is available at their website: www.usatodaycollege.com, or questions may be directed to Ms. Pulver at jpulver@usatoday.com.

- University Governance Structure—Pat Hyer

Dr. Patricia Hyer, Associate Provost, briefed the commission on the University Governance System and how the commission functions within the governance
system. She explained how resolutions are written and sent through the governance system for action. Dr. Hyer stressed that the most important responsibility of each commission is to speak the voice of the constituent group and decide on policy issues for that group.

- **Update on the Selection Process for the BOV Undergraduate Rep – Sumeet Bagai and Jennifer Jessie**

Mr. Sumeet Bagai outlined the changes to the selection process for the undergraduate representative to the Board of Visitors. The changes were approved by the commission last spring, by the Board of Visitors in August, and go into effect this fall. The process will now be handled by a nominating committee comprised mainly of students. Nominations will be taken at the October 20 commission meeting for the seven undergraduate representatives from CSA who will serve on the nominating committee. Elections for these seven representatives will take place at the November 3 commission meeting. Applications for the BOV positions will be available on November 7 and information sessions for applicants are being planned for November 8 and 9. Applications will be due on January 27. Mr. Bagai also outlined the timeline for the nominating committee meetings. Ms. Jennifer Jessie, the current undergraduate representative to the BOV, encouraged everyone to participate in the selection process.

- **VTU Constitution Changes—Elizabeth Bieber**

Ms. Elizabeth Bieber presented the Virginia Tech Union Constitution changes for first reading and outlined the changes. They have two minor changes related to adding officers. Second reading will take place at the October 20 meeting.

- **BOC Constitution Changes—Loren Stanford**

Ms. Loren Stanford presented the Black Organizations Council Constitution changes for first reading and summarized the proposed changes. During the question and answer period, the commission suggested a few grammatical changes. Second reading will take place at the October 20 meeting.

- **SBB Policies & Procedures Changes—Steve Burrell**

Mr. Steve Burrell presented the Student Budget Board Policies and Procedures changes for first reading and summarized the proposed changes. The SBB is a subcommittee of the commission; therefore the commission must approve any changes to their policies and procedures. During the question and answer period, several commission members expressed concern over travel reimbursement limits and Dr. Hikes asked if these limits could be revisited if gas prices continue to rise. Second reading will take place at the October 20 meeting.

- **Principles of Community Handbook—Ray Plaza**

Mr. Ray Plaza distributed and discussed the “Guide for Use, Application and Promotion of the Virginia Tech Principles of Community” which was prepared by the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity. He also distributed bookmarks and postcards showing the Principles. During the question and answer period, a student
asked if framed copies of the Principles were available for UCSOs to hang in their offices. Mr. Plaza responded that he will work with Dr. Hikes' office to make these copies available for all UCSOs. He was also asked how blatant violations of the Principles can be reported. He indicated that policing of the Principles can be accomplished by filing a grievance through the Office of Equal Opportunity. They are still looking into this and will probably need to formulate some policies that will cover specific concerns. They welcome feedback on the best way to proceed with this. Mr. Plaza also responded to how the Principles are being distributed on campus. He pointed out that a copy of the Principles is on the website for the Office of Multicultural Affairs at www.multicultural.vt.edu.

V. Announcements

Ms. Ruscio announced that the next commission meeting is Thursday, October 20. Agenda items should be submitted to her and Mr. Scott Cheatham by Friday, October 14.

Mr. Scott Cheatham announced that Hokies United will be hosting a 5K race on Sunday, October 9, at the Duckpond. The entry fee is $10. Check-in is from 12:00-1:15 p.m. The race starts at 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to Hokies United for the Katrina fund. Participants and volunteers may sign up at http://www.hokiesunited.org.vt.edu/.

Ms. Jennifer Jessie announced that she and Mr. Navin Manjooran are considering a student organization showcase regarding Principles of Community that will allow the organizations to discuss how they plan to contribute to the Principles. This will also give the organizations an opportunity to discuss problems they may be having in regards to the Principles. They will send out additional information about the planning process via e-mail.

Mr. James Tyger announced the Class of 2007 Ring Premiere on Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. in Burruss Auditorium, followed by fireworks on the drillfield.

Mr. Ron Forbes announced that RHF will hold Casino Night on October 15 from 8:00 p.m.-midnight in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires. Proceeds will go to Hurricane Katrina relief and Hokies United.

Mr. Steve Burrell announced several homecoming events: a pep rally will be held on October 6 at 9:00 p.m. on Alumni Lawn; the Mikes Jones concert will take place on October 6 at 7:00 in Burruss Auditorium; the NPHC step show will be held on October 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Burruss Auditorium; the parade will be held on October 8 at 9:00 a.m. in downtown Blacksburg.

Ms. Susie Kim announced that AASU will hold its 14th annual Culture Show on October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Burruss Auditorium.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sanzenbach, Recording Secretary