MINUTES
COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

April 10, 2003
Brush Mtn B
Squires Student Center
3:30-5:30 p.m.


ABSENT: Edward Barry, Lanny Cross, Karen DePauw, Grant Hill, Theresa Kanter, Meredith Katz, Megan Elwood Madden, Jerry Niles, Kerry Redican, Christian Rieser

VISITORS: Elaine Kwan, Martha McCaughey, Puraj Patel

I. Call to Order

Mr. Vivek Mehta, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with one addition under New Business: Ms. Kim Mitchell asked to speak about Small Grants and Security.

III. Minutes from March 13th and 27th Meetings

Mr. Mehta announced that the minutes of the March 13th meeting have been approved by University Council. He also announced that the minutes of the March 27th meeting have been sent to the commission for electronic approval and asked if there were any changes. None were indicated.

IV. Speaker: Computer Privacy Task Force — Dr. Martha McCaughey

Dr. Martha McCaughey attended on behalf of the Computer Privacy Task Force. The university currently has no computer privacy policy, only a policy on the acceptable use of communication systems, including computers. The Computer Privacy Task Force has been working for a year to develop a computer policy that balances institutional need with employee privacy needs. The purpose of the computer policy is as follows: to define the university’s policy with regard to monitoring or reviewing individually assigned employee electronic communications and computing resources, and releasing information from that monitoring or review. The policy clearly defines the circumstances under which a search can be conducted: authorizations from a legal environment, Freedom of Information Act requests, emergency situations, and suspected employee misconduct. It also outlines the procedures that must be used for each circumstance.
The task force wanted to share this policy with students because of confidentiality issues. Students may not be aware that without a privacy policy, professors cannot guarantee confidentiality to students who submit papers via the Internet or share confidential information in e-mails. In addition, students who are also university employees are subject to the same restrictions as other university employees when using state-provided equipment. The new policy would protect all university employees, including students. There are also concerns that academic freedom will be compromised if students and employees self-censor their computer use out of fear of reprisal should their computers be searched.

Dr. McCaughey distributed copies of the draft computer policy for the commission’s information. Questions can be addressed to Dr. McCaughey at marth@vt.edu or Ms. Susan Anderson at anderson@math.vt.edu.

V. Old Business:

VI. New Business:

A. Student Budget Board

i. Decisions, Appeals, and Timeline
Ms. Kim Mitchell, chair of the Student Budget Board, distributed copies of the Student Budget Board 2003-2004 Appropriation Strategy showing total appropriations of $936,691. The groups were to be notified of their funding on April 11, with appeals due on April 21. Following a brief discussion of the funding decisions, there was a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and approved.

ii. Small Grants and Security
Ms. Mitchell announced that groups receiving small grants do not have enough money to cover the extra security for events that is now being required by the university. She requested that we allow an increase of $250 for security for the remainder of the academic year. There was a motion to approve this increase. The motion was seconded and approved.

B. Elections

i. Chair and Vice Chair
Mr. Montgomery joined the meeting and assumed the chairmanship.

Mr. Montgomery discussed the responsibilities of the commission chair then opened the floor for nominations for the 2003-2004 commission chair. Mr. Sterling Daniel nominated Mr. Vivek Mehta for the position. There were no further nominations and there was a motion to vote for Mr. Mehta by acclamation. The motion was seconded and approved. There was a motion to acclaim Mr. Mehta as chair of the commission for next year. The motion was seconded and approved. Mr. Mehta spoke briefly about his plans for the commission next year.
Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Mehta discussed the responsibilities of the vice chair and the floor was opened for nominations. Ms. Nicki Cantrell nominated Ms. Brooke Randa for the position. There were no other nominations and there was a motion to vote for Ms. Randa by acclamation. The motion was seconded and approved. There was a motion to acclaim Ms. Randa as vice chair of the commission for next year. The motion was seconded and approved.

ii. Representatives to: Committee for Academic Support, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Mr. Montgomery discussed the responsibilities of the Committee for Academic Support and opened the floor for nominations for a representative from the commission. There were no nominations and this agenda item was tabled until the April 24 meeting.

Mr. Montgomery discussed the responsibilities of the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity and opened the floor for nominations for the CSA representative on the new commission. Mr. Vivek Mehta nominated Mr. Brandon Bull. Ms. Brooke Randa nominated Mr. Trey Church. Mr. Church spoke briefly about his qualifications and Mr. Puraj Patel spoke on behalf of Mr. Bull since he was not present. Mr. Montgomery asked Mr. Church to leave the room and called for a vote. Mr. Church was selected as the representative.

VII. Announcements

Mr. Pankaj Gupta announced that International Week would continue through April 13, with several events still planned for the final weekend. A soccer tournament was planned for 10:00 a.m. on April 11-13 on the Duck Pond Field.

Ms. Jane Warner announced that Disability Awareness Week was continuing through April 11. The keynote speaker, Chris Skinner, was scheduled to speak that evening at 7:00 p.m. in Room D&E of Donaldson Brown followed by a panel discussion. Due to rain on the opening day of the event, the information booth on the Drillfield was postponed until Monday, April 14.

Ms. Brooke Randa thanked the commission for supporting the Virginia Tech Union events throughout the year.

Mr. Nic Temple announced that Army Second Lieutenant Jeffrey Kaylor, a Virginia Tech alumnus, had died in the war in Iraq on April 7. A memorial observance was planned at 4:45 p.m. that afternoon in front of Lane Hall.

Mr. Nicki Cantrell announced that Omicron Delta Kappa would be holding their Spring New Member Initiation ceremony on April 11 at 6:00 p.m. in War Memorial Chapel.

Ms. Susan Anderson thanked the commission for all the work that was done on the Board of Visitors issues.

Mr. Myron McClees thanked Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Mehta for the good work they did
for the commission this year.

Mr. Vivek Mehta announced that there is one more commission meeting this year and asked that the new representatives attend.

Mr. Brian Montgomery briefed the commission on the April 6 Board of Visitors special meeting. At end of meeting the Board decided to form a committee to discuss our admissions policy. Mr. Edd Sewell, Mr. Christian Rieser, and Mr. Montgomery volunteered to serve on the committee. Mr. Allan Bradley will be taking over as Undergraduate Representative to the Board after the June meeting and will be participating in the admissions policy discussions in the future.

Mr. Sterling Daniel announced that Relay for Life would be taking place on April 11-12 at the Johnson-Miller outdoor track behind McComas Hall.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recorder