Commission on Student Affairs

April 1, 2004
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes

Present: Sumeet Bagai, Allan Bradley, Myrna Callison, Mandy Cocco, Cristin Coles, Lanny Cross, Monika Gibson, Caryl Gray, Ben Kearney, Arun Krishnan, Ellen Krupar, Elaine Kwan, Matthew Lieber, Kasey Martin, Vivek Mehta, Kim Mitchell, Clarresa Morton, Vishal Nakra, Grant Otto, Brooke Randa, Nicole Reynolds, Roberta Snelling, Pat Colleran for Nic Temple, Jane Warner, Kelly Williams,

Absent: Tom Brown, Ginny Fowler, Pankaj Gupta, Jerry Niles, Keniah Robinson, Chris Wise

Guests: Puraj Patel, Melanie Roberts

I. Call to Order

Ms. Brooke Randa, vice chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. in Mr. Mehta’s absence.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Randa called for adoption of the agenda. Ms. Kasey Martin made a motion to add Update on Drillfield Parking under Old Business. The motion passed.

III. Minutes of March 18th Meeting

Ms. Randa announced that the minutes of the March18th meeting have been sent to the commission for electronic approval. The deadline for making changes is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7.

IV. Old Business

A. Update on Drillfield Parking

Ms. Kasey Martin sent an e-mail to the GSA listserv to get feedback from graduate students on the Resolution to Change Drillfield Parking Procedures. Under the resolution, the SGA is requesting that Parking Services withdraw the regulation of Graduate and Faculty/Staff only parking from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on the Drillfield, and revert back to open parking beginning at 5:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. the following day. In her e-mail to graduate students, Ms. Martin suggested a compromise that the rule not be eliminated entirely but changed so that those with commuter/graduate hang tags be allowed to park on the Drillfield after 5:00 p.m. She received 48 responses to the e-mail and distributed a handout outlining their feedback. Of the 48 responses, 18 were willing to agree to the compromise, 30 were unwilling to compromise. The main reasons against changing the current parking rule is the level of
graduate student responsibilities, overcrowding and traffic on the Drillfield, and graduate student privilege.

Ms. Randa reported that she has spoken to Richard McCoy in Parking Services about how the current Drillfield parking policy began. Mr. McCoy said it began about four years ago after a resolution calling for the change was approved by Faculty Senate. The changes were requested because graduate students driving to campus after 5:00 p.m. need parking spaces near classes where they are teaching, as well as the library and their research labs and offices.

During the question/answer period, representatives from Faculty Senate were asked for their input. Ms. Ellen Krupar and Ms. Caryl Gray feel there will be some opposition from the Faculty Senate because faculty often come to campus after 5:00 p.m. for class and work, and the change would impact them as well. Mr. Matthew Lieber said the graduate students discussed this topic at a meeting and it was brought up that there is no data on the number of Drillfield parking spaces being used after 5:00 p.m. They feel it would be premature to pass the resolution until this has been studied. These comments and concerns will be taken into account by the SGA as they bring the resolution to the table again.

V. New Business

A. Blacksburg Noise Ordinance

Mr. Puraj Patel presented Resolution 2003-2004J, Resolution Requesting the Blacksburg Council Members to Revisit the Noise Ordinance, for first reading. The Blacksburg Town Council recently passed an ordinance deeming a noise violation to be a Class 2 misdemeanor, punishable by up to a $1,000 fine per person residing in the dwelling and/or six months imprisonment. The resolution calls for the Town Council to reconsider the Class 2 misdemeanor for a first offense of a noise ordinance. It also asks that citations and summons only be issued to those who are in the dwelling at the time of the incident, rather than all residents of the dwelling. A question and answer period followed. There was a suggestion to change the word “consist” to “comprise” in the second whereas. The change will be made before second reading.

B. Student Budget Board—Kim Mitchell

1. Approval of Annual Funding Recommendations

Ms. Kim Mitchell distributed several documents related to the Student Budget Board’s 2004-2005 annual funding allocations for University Student Life Programs and University Chartered Student Organizations. Sixteen organizations requesting $972,130 were funded at a total of $669,233 or 69 percent of requests. Following a question/answer period, there was a motion to approve the Student Budget Board’s funding recommendations for 2004-2005. The motion passed.

(Mr. Vivek Mehta arrived and took over as chair of the meeting.)
2. Appointment of Appeals Subcommittee

Ms. Mitchell explained that groups may appeal the funding recommendations for the following three reasons only: 1) established policies and procedures were not followed; 2) the organization was denied the opportunity to present significant evidence at the hearing; 3) the funding decision was arbitrary and capricious. The fact that the Board did not fund an item at the requested level does not constitute grounds for appeal. Mr. Mehta asked for volunteers to serve on the appeals subcommittee. Ms. Roberta Snelling, Mr. Grant Otto, Mr. Pat Colleran, Ms. Cristin Coles, Ms. Kasey Martin, and Mr. Vivek Mehta, and Ms. Monika Gibson volunteered. Ms. Gibson agreed to serve as chair. Appeals letters are due to Ms. Donna Sanzenbach in 112 Burruss by 5:00 p.m. on April 19.

C. Core Curriculum Committee’s Resolution Regarding Change to the University Writing Requirement—Clarresas Morton

Dr. Clarresa Morton distributed the Core Curriculum Committee’s Resolution to Revise the Writing-Intensive Requirement for the commissions’ information and discussed the purpose of the resolution. Over the past few years there has been concern among the faculty about the effectiveness of the current writing-intensive requirement. The resolution recommends that the writing intensive requirement be transitioned into a speaking-visual-writing requirement. Responsibility for planning, implementing, and assessing the requirement will be transitioned from the University Core Curriculum to the departmental level. The resolution has been discussed with other commissions and each college’s curriculum committee. The current version reflects changes made as a result of these discussions. The resolution is being sent to University Council. Dr. Morton asked the commission members to share the resolution with their constituent groups, and a followup discussion will take place at the April 15 CSA meeting.

D. National Pan-Hellenic Council—Melanie Roberts

Ms. Melanie Roberts announced that she has been attending the commission meetings because the National Pan-Hellenic Council is interested in joining the commission. Their constitution has been updated and she will bring it to the April 15 meeting for approval. Once their constitution has been approved, they will ask for consideration for membership.

E. Nominations for Chair & Vice Chair

Mr. Mehta announced that elections for 2004-2005 CSA chair and vice chair will take place at the April 15 meeting, with nominations starting today. There was a motion to open the floor for nominations for next year’s chair and vice chair. The motion passed. Ms. Kasey Martin was nominated for chair and accepted the nomination. Mr. Grant Otto was nominated for vice chair and also accepted the nomination. Nominations will continue at the April 15 meeting and may also be made electronically by e-mailing Mr. Mehta at vm@vt.edu; Ms. Randa at jranda@vt.edu; or Ms. Sanzenbach at donnac@vt.edu.
VI. Announcements

Mr. Mehta announced that next year’s student representatives to the Board of Visitors are Ms. Melinda Cep (undergraduate) and Mr. Marcus Ly (graduate).

Ms. Kim Mitchell announced that the University Student Leadership Awards Ceremony would be taking place that evening at 7:00 p.m. in Donaldson Brown Auditorium.

Ms. Brooke Randa announced the Ludacris concert at 8:00 p.m., April 27, in Burruss Auditorium. Tickets go on sale April 2.

Ms. Kasey Martin announced that Ms. Deborah Stone, MIT scholar and Research Professor of Government, would speak that evening at 7:00 p.m. in Torgersen Hall, Room 3100.

Mr. Arun Krishnan announced that the International Street Fair would be held on April 3 in downtown Blacksburg from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Allan Bradley announced the results of the tuition and fee discussion at the Board of Visitors meeting on March 29. The maximum increase for 2004-2005 was set at 9.6 percent (includes tuition, all fees, and room/board). Final rates will be set after the General Assembly finalizes the budget for the state. Mr. Bradley also announced that Virginia21 collected 200,000 pennies from colleges across the state. The pennies were delivered to the State Capital steps on April 1 to represent the need for a revenue source other than tuition for universities.

Ms. Myrna Callison announced that the BOV Narrow Tailoring Committee has been closed and an oversight committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students will be formed instead. The oversight committee will meet twice a year starting fall 2004. Ms. Callison also announced that Relay for Life will be taking place from 7:00 p.m. on April 2 until 10:00 a.m. on April 3 at Johnson-Miller outdoor track behind McComas Hall.

Ms. Melanie Roberts announced the National Pan-Hellenic Council’s Overton Stepshow 2004 at 6:00 p.m. on April 10 in Burruss Auditorium.

Ms. Cristin Coles had three announcements for the Black Student Alliance: the movie, Love Don’t Cost a Thing, at 8:00 p.m. on April 14 in Squires Colonial Hall; Poetry Slam at 8:00 p.m. on April 15 in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom; and speaker E. Lynn Harris at 8:00 p.m. on April 19 in Donaldson Brown Auditorium.

Mr. Mehta reminded everyone that we only have two meetings remaining for the year. Anyone with legislation to be passed this year was asked to see him after the meeting. New student leaders or appointees for next year are welcome to attend the final two meetings on April 15 and 29.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sanzenbach
Recorder