MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
Room 219, Squires Student Center
April 15, 1999
3:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. Madonna Mendoza, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Erin Hanley (for Mr. Davis Bailey), Ms. Kimberly DeGuise (for Ms. Laura Bayless), Mr. Andrew Bishop, Mr. Sean Blackburn, Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Mr. Matthew Chan, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Lori Crowe, Ms. Lara Digan, Ms. Judy Fielder, Ms. Rachael Emery (for Ms. Jennifer Gittes), Mr. Jody Olson, Mr. Duncan Neasham (for Mr. Daniel Palmer), Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, Mr. Brad Ramsey, Dr. Edd Sewell, Dr. Edward Spencer, Mr. Jeffrey Sutton (for Mr. Paul Wagner), Dr. Brian Warren, Mr. Jason Wiker

Absent: Dr. Robert Bates, Mr. Jamaa Bickley-King, Ms. Kara Gittes, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Ms. Alex Iannucci, Dr. Martha Johnson, Dr. Peter Rony, Mr. Ferat Sahin, Dr. Delores Scott, Ms. Roxene Thompson

Guests: Mr. Chris Gates, Mr. Dennis Wnorowski, Ms. Jennifer Yang, Mr. Will Simpkins, Mr. Ken Keane, Ms. Jenn Wenzke, Ms. Heather Dunahoo, Ms. Elaine Humphrey, Mr. Glenn Rioux, Dr. David Ostroth

I. Call to Order.

Ms. Madonna Mendoza, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

A. Ms. Mendoza reported that the minutes of the April 1, 1999 meeting of CSA had been approved electronically.

B. Ms. Mendoza asked each organization to introduce their new officers who will be serving on CSA for 1999-2000. Ms. Lori Crowe introduced Mr. Ken Keane as the new president of Virginia Tech Union, Mr. Matt Chan introduced Ms. Erin Hanley and Ms. Kimberly DeGuise, representatives for GSA, and Ms. Rachel Emery was introduced as the Corps of Cadets representative.

II. Approval of Agenda. Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

III. Old Business

A. Student Government Association Code of Conduct Resolution. Mr. Jody Olson introduced Mr. Chris Gates, who briefed the commission members on the sweatshop issue. Mr. Gates stated that there are three issues that are important for the consideration of the Code of Conduct Resolution.

1. It is a national issue. University Students Against Sweatshops is very active around the country. This organization is trying to get universities to pass the Code of Conduct that would mandate that licensees insure not only the quality of products but also that those products hold up to certain human rights requirements.

2. They have developed a very strong support base at Virginia Tech for the Code of Conduct. GSA and SGA have supported this resolution, along with CISO and various other similar organizations representing a very diverse group.
3. They are currently working with the administration and representatives of SGA and GSA for their input. They view CSA support as being very important in getting approval of the resolution.

Discussion followed. Motion was made and seconded that the Commission on Student Affairs will endorse the Student Government Association Code of Conduct Resolution under the condition that the SGA will change the last two words of the resolution from "collective bargaining" to "form a union."

After further discussion, question was called and the issue was voted on with 9 ayes, 2 nays, and 7 abstentions. The Student Government Association will forward the corrected resolution to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, which in turn will forward it to the chair of the committee which has been reviewing this issue, with a letter endorsing the support of the Commission on Student Affairs.

IV. New Business

A. Introduction of Semi-finalists for the Position of Graduate Student Representative to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. Mr. Andrew Bishop introduced the three candidates for the position of Graduate Student Representative to the board of visitors. The candidates, Ms. Elaine Humphrey, Mr. Glenn Rioux, and Ms. Jennifer Yang, spoke to the commission about their qualifications for the position and why they are interested in being the graduate representative. The candidates will appear before the board at the April 25 meeting. Ms. Mendoza thanked the candidates for appearing before CSA.

B. Student Budget Board Appeals. Dr. Edward Spencer reported that the Student Budget Board Appeals Committee met with the three groups which had filed appeals regarding their allocations for 1999-2000. As a result of the hearings, the committee denied the Council of International Student Organizations' appeal but approved the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance and Virginia Tech Union appeals for hearings before CSA.

Dr. Spencer asked Mr. Will Simpkins to present arguments in behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance appeal. After a lengthy discussion from Mr. Simpkins and Ms. Nicki Cantrell of the Student Budget Board, a motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session. After further discussion, motion was made and seconded to add $640 to the National Coming Out Day, Distinguished Speakers Series, and Gay Awareness Week for airfare, for a total of $1920 to be added to their travel allotment. A motion was made and seconded to amend the original motion to add $50 and $90 for materials for the Community Visibility and Education and Gay Awareness Week. The vote on the amendment was 12 ayes, 6 nays, and 0 abstentions. Amendment passed.

Commission voted on the original motion to add $640 in the three categories mentioned above in travel monies for a total of $1920. The vote on the original motion was 16 ayes, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Dr. Spencer welcomed the group back into open session and informed the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance of the decision of the commission to add an additional $1920 in travel money, and $140 for materials to their request.
Dr. Spencer informed Ms. Cantrell that the minutes of this commission meeting will be the official notification of the actions of CSA to the Student Budget Board.

Dr. Spencer then asked Ms. Lori Crowe, president of the Virginia Tech Union, to present arguments for their appeal. The three items they appealed were (1) Office Program - Telephone Service project; (2) Membership development - Leadership development project; and (3) Summer Programming. After a lengthy discussion from Ms. Crowe and Ms. Cantrell, a motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session.

Discussion and questions followed. A motion was made and seconded to fund $2848 in the leadership development project. The vote to add $2848 in this category was 13 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to add $300 to the Summer Contract/Concerts category for use for Kid's Day activities. The vote to add $300 to this category was 11 ayes, 1 nay, and 3 abstentions. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to add $548 for telephones in Burruss Hall. Discussion and questions followed. The vote to add $548 to telephone service category was 3 ayes, 10 nays, and 2 abstentions. Motion failed.

Dr. Spencer then moved into open session and informed the Virginia Tech Union of the commission's action to add $2848 in the leadership development project, and $300 in the Summer Contract/Concerts category for use for Kid's Day activities.

C. Due to the length of the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to schedule another meeting of the Commission on Student Affairs to hear Items C and D on the agenda. Those items are:

1. Student Budget Board Membership for 1999-2000
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission on Student Affairs for 1999-2000

Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of CSA to hear these two items will be Thursday, April 29, 3:30 p.m., 219 Squires Student Center.

V. Announcements

A. Dr. Barbara Pendergrass distributed several items for the commission's information. (1) A flyer for a celebration of diversity planning meeting to be held Monday, April 19, 5:00 p.m. in the Multicultural Center in Squires Student Center; (2) an invitation to a Multicultural Programs Celebration, Friday, April 30, 4:00 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center and Multicultural Center; and (3) an e-mail from Mr. Larry Hincker, associate vice president for university relations, announcing that the Virginia Tech Presidential Search Committee will hold a public forum on Saturday, May 1, to hear comments from faculty, students, staff, alumni, and the general public on factors to be considered in conducting the search, and the criteria by which presidential candidates should be evaluated. The forum will be held in the Brush Mountain Room of Squires Student Center from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.