Commission on Student Affairs  
Minutes  
April 21, 1994  
219 Squires Student Center

PRESENT:  Dr. Tom Goodale, Mr. Seth Ginther, Ms. Laura Lew (for Mr. John Kruep), Ms. Ioanna Spyrakopoulou, Mr. Vaughn Shannon, Ms. Erin Smith, Ms. Lisa Auleta, Ms. Rhonda Lewis (for Ms. Dimples Irby), Mr. Shiloh Bates (for Mr. Jon Parelli), Mr. Chris Parker, Ms. Shannon Milliken, Mr. Henry Hsu, Mr. Carl Mitchell, Mr. Tim Schell, Ms. Maureen Bezold (for Ms. Jennifer Tank), Dr. Cornel Morton, Ms. Pam Winfrey (for Dr. Edward Spencer), and Dr. Richard Sorensen.

ABSENT:  Dr. John Eaton, Dr. Jim McKenna, Mr. Keith Coutray, Col. Milton Bartley, Ms. Judy Davis, Mr. Robert Graham, and Dr. Jeanne Howard.

GUESTS:  Mr. Bill Campion, Ms. Heather Brown, Mr. Fred Homan, Mr. Ron Fischer, Mr. Leo Smith, Ms. Alicia Cohen, and Mr. John Aughenbaugh.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Tom Goodale, acting chairperson (substituting for Dr. McKenna) of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Goodale began the meeting by having all guests and new members of the Commission introduce themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dr. Goodale reminded the Commission members that the Executive and Student Affairs Committees of the Board of Visitors (BOV) will meet on Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m. to interview the three finalists for the student representative position to the BOV.

Dr. Goodale also made the Commission aware that three letters were sent to BOV members regarding the selection process of the student representative. One letter was from an applicant for the student representative to the BOV position, who made the final six but not the final three applicant pool. This individual criticized the rampant coaching and lobbying that allegedly occurred during the Commission's selection process. The second letter was written by Mr. Tim Schell, President of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA). Mr. Schell stressed the ability of a graduate student to represent all students on campus, if a graduate student was selected as the student representative to the BOV. The third letter was written by BOV Vice-Rector Henry Dekker, and it relayed some procedural concerns that Mr. Dekker had about the selecting of the student representative.

Dr. Goodale said that each of the letters was available in his office for public review. He also commented that President Torgenson would like to have the CSA review the selection procedures for the student representative at its upcoming summer meeting, but the current deliberations would continue as presently arranged.
2. Mr. Chris Parker of the Residence Hall Federation (RHF) announced that RHF was preparing to make a presentation to gain the privilege of hosting the 1995 National Association of College and University Residence Halls conference. He invited the Commission members to a trial run presentation scheduled for 8:30 p.m. on April 28 to help the RHF make a quality bid for the conference.

3. Mr. Tim Schell reminded the Commission that the Graduate Research Symposium, sponsored by the GSA, will occur on Friday, April 22 on the first floor of Squires Student Center. The keynote speaker is Dr. Eleanor Gibson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Goodale asked that, because of the rather full meeting agenda, items #1 (Recommendations on Appeals to Budget Board) and #2 (Second Reading of 1994-95 Budget Board Requests) under Unfinished Business be postponed until April 29, when the Commission will have a special call meeting in 219 Squires Student Center at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Ms. Amy Coates of the Virginia Tech Union (VTU) stated, for the record, that she was against the postponement of these items, as she was not notified until a few hours before the Commission meeting that VTU's appeal of a Budget Board recommendation would not be heard today. The agenda was approved as modified.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 31 and April 7, 1994 were approved as submitted.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Budget Board  Ms. Lisa Auleta, vice-chairperson of the Board, asked that the Student Budget board minutes of April 6, 1994 be filed. The minutes were filed as presented.

Facilities  No report.

Governance  No report.

Student Life  No report (see Unfinished Business, #2).

INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT BUDGET BOARD

Dr. Goodale called upon Mr. Bill Campion, chairperson of the Student Budget Board (Board), to review the procedures involved with selecting one undergraduate and one graduate student to fill vacancies on the Board for the 1994-95 academic year. Mr. Campion said the process is as follows:

- The Commission, in executive session, determines two questions to be asked of each candidate and the order in which the candidates would interview.
- Each candidate would have three minutes for a presentation, with an additional two minutes available for an individual to
make an introduction of the candidate.
- After the presentations, the candidates will have two minutes to answer the two questions from the Commission.
- In executive session and by secret ballot, the Commission will determine the one undergraduate and one graduate student who will be appointed to the Student Budget Board.

After Dr. Goodale asked the candidates to introduce themselves, he called the Commission into executive session, pursuant to Virginia statute. After some discussion the Commission decided on the following questions to be asked of each candidate:

1) How would you deal with conflict of interest as a member of the Student Budget Board? (asked by Mr. Parker)

2) What do you view is the main responsibility as a member of the Student Budget Board and what would your priorities be regarding funding requests? (asked by Ms. Shannon Milliken)

The Commission also decided within executive session to interview the undergraduate candidates first, and then, the graduate candidates (each by alphabetical order). Mr. Brian O'Neil was designated as the Interfraternity Council voting proxy, as Mr. Henry Hsu was introducing a candidate.

Mr. Brian Heikes was the first undergraduate to interview, followed by Ms. Gerri Johns, who was presented by Ms. Saranette Miles. Mr. Jeffrey Little was the next applicant, and he was introduced by Mr. Henry Hsu. The final undergraduate candidate was Mr. James Locke, and he was introduced by Ms. Amy Coates.

The two graduate applicants were Mr. Gary Coleman and Mr. Cale Bigelow. Mr. Bigelow presented first and was introduced by Mr. KCarl Mitchell. Mr. Coleman followed and was introduced by Mr. Schell.

Dr. Goodale, then, called the Commission into executive session, per Virginia statute. After discussing each undergraduate applicant, the Commission, by secret ballot, chose Ms. Gerri Johns to sit on the Board. After discussing the graduate candidates, the Commission chose Mr. Gary Coleman to fill the appointed graduate student seat on the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dr. Cornel Morton reported on the recommendations of the Commission's ad hoc committee on appeals to the board's 1994-95 annual funding recommendation. The ad hoc committee recommended that the Honor System's and Water Ski Team's (within the Extramural Sports Federation annual funding request) appeals did not have the grounds to be heard by the full Commission, but that the Virginia Tech Union's and Women's Field Hockey Team's (within the Extramural sports
Federation annual funding request) appeals did have validity and should be heard. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. These appeals will be heard at the special call meeting on April 28.

2. Mr. O'Neil presented a resolution for first reading concerning student evaluations of professors (see attached). Mr. O'Neil accepted as a friendly amendment a change of the word "quantified" in the fourth whereas clause to "interpreted." Dr. Richard Sorensen reviewed recent efforts by the University to achieve more precise evaluations of faculty teaching; he also noted that not enough students comment, when given the chance, to help faculty evaluations. Mr. Jon Parelli advocated tabling the resolution, since the Student Government Association may tackle this issue during the 1994-95 fall semester. Per Dr. Sorensen's clarification of parliamentary procedure, Mr. Parelli's motion to table was deferred to the April 28 meeting, as this was first reading of the resolution. Mr. Mitchell commented that though he liked the general tone of the resolution, he would like greater student input and discussion of the matter before a resolution is acted upon.

3. Ms. Saranette Miles presented, for second reading, changes to the Black Student Alliance's (BSA) constitution, with the changes highlighted in bold print. A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes as presented to BSA's constitution.

4. Dr. Goodale announced the Commission's summer meeting would occur on June 23, 1994 at 4:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. Dr. Goodale asked that commission members who would not be present for the meeting to tell their successors of the meeting or inform the Vice-President's office of who their proxies would be for the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ms. Alicia Cohen, Assistant Director of Student Activities, reported on the student organizations that applied for a 1994 student leader summer stipend. Nine of the eleven organizations that applied were recommended by the review committee to receive a summer stipend, with the remaining two organizations, Black Organizations Council and the Graduate Honor System, still being reviewed. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Student Budget Board.

2. Dr. Goodale distributed the Student Budget Board Task Force Final Report and asked Mr. John Aughenbaugh to review what is being asked of the Commission regarding this document. Mr. Aughenbaugh explained what was included in the Task Force Final Report and noted that Dr. Goodale would ask the Commission to act on two items within the Final Report -- a recommendation under issue #1 and the revised Budget Board Policies and Procedures. These items will be presented for first reading on the April 28 Commission meeting. The rest of Task Force's Final Report is being presented to the
Commission for its information.

3. Mr. Schell presented a motion, which was seconded, that said if Mr. Gary Coleman resigned his appointment to the Student Budget Board for whatever reason Mr. Cale Bigelow would be appointed to succeed Mr. Coleman on the board. Mr. Schell explained that Mr. Coleman was one of the final three candidates for the student representative position to the BOV, and if selected, would cause a vacancy on the Budget Board. To avoid having the Commission go through the selection process another time for this Budget Board position, Mr. Schell offered this motion. The motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning the meeting, Dr. Goodale reminded the Commission of the items it was to address at the special call meeting on April 28. These items are:

- Appeals of Student Budget Board annual funding recommendations by Virginia Tech Union and Women's Field Hockey Team.
- Approval of Student Budget Board annual funding recommendations for the 1994-95 fiscal year.
- Second reading of the proposal regarding student evaluations of professors.
- First reading of items within the Student Budget Board Task Force Dr. Goodale would like the Commission to review and take action on.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

John M. Aughenbaugh
Student Affairs Coordinator for Graduate Student Life