MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
Brush Mountain Room B
April 2, 1998
3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Kelli Campbell, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Mr. Rush Middleton (for Ms. Lauren Esleeck), Mr. Jody Olson (for Ms. Tekisha Everette), Ms. Judy Fielder, Mr. Ryan Ford, Dr. Cathy Goree, Dr. Louis Gwin, Mr. Michael Herndon, Ms. Gerri Johns, Ms. Krista Johnston, Mr. B. J. Jones, Mr. Anurag Maheshwary, Ms. Arlene Merino, Mr. Mohammed Osman, Ms. Ann Thomas Hofler (for Ms. Kristi Robinson), Mr. Steve Schneider, Ms. Amelia Clark (for Dr. Delores Scott), Dr. Edward Spencer, Ms. Jean Marie Whichard, Ms. Sarah Wikstrom

Absent: Ms. Jennifer Ginther, Mr. Markus Grafe, Dr. Martha Johnson, Dr. Johann Norstedt, Dr. Andy Swiger, Dr. Brian Warren, Mr. Brian Wiersema

Guests: Mr. Sean Blackburn, Mr. Jeremy Worley

I. Call to Order. Mr. Raphael Castillejo, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Castillejo announced that there was a quorum for the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda. Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Announcement of Approval of March 19, 1998, CSA Minutes. Mr. Castillejo announced that the minutes of the March 19, 1998, CSA minutes had been approved electronically.

IV. Old Business

A. Second Reading, Revisions to University Policies for Student Life, Student Code of Conduct.

Dr. Cathy Goree presented the resolution for revisions to the University Policies for Student Life (UPSL) for second reading, and materials regarding other related changes to the UPSL. The resolution is in reference to a proposed revision to the Student Code of Conduct, specifically what is now the "Abusive, Disorderly, or Obscene Conduct" policy. If approved by CSA and University Council, the resolution will be presented to the April 27, 1998, meeting of the Board of Visitors for approval.

The changes represent a rewrite of the policy regarding "Abusive, Disorderly, or Obscene Conduct" policy into three separate policies. The Abusive Conduct is more narrowly defined, Disorderly Conduct is relatively the same wording, and Obscene Conduct which contained some mutually exclusive terms now becomes a policy on Public Nudity. In addition, there are some proposed changes to the Philosophy section of UPSL, and the Harassment section. Dr. Cross informed the Commission that the UPSL was written twenty-five years ago and has been edited over time, but it has been some time since it was last reviewed. The Policy Review Committee read and discussed this section, and felt that the text did not
clearly communicate what was intended. Therefore, the Harassment section has been rewritten for clarity as far as what the university can do, will do, and is doing. Dr. Cross stated that there was a tendency to use the statement as a policy. This is not a policy; the policy is in the Student Code of Conduct.

Dr. Goree stated that there are two major changes in the Philosophy section in what the new policy states compared to the current policy. One is to separate the things that are aspirational statements as to what we want our community to be like. The sections on Harassment and Philosophy are presented for informational purposes only. But the sections redefining the Student Code of Conduct are presented in the form of a resolution because these are the sections which have to make their way through the governance system, and be approved by the Board of Visitors.

A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

V. New Business

A. Selection of Undergraduate Student Representatives to the Board of Visitors.

Ms. Kelli Campbell, vice chair, made a motion for the Commission on Student Affairs to convene in closed session for the purpose of selecting the three finalists for the position of Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors. Motion was seconded. Mr. Castillejo reported that one of the six finalists, Ms. Deborah Barksdale, withdrew her candidacy twenty-four hours prior to this meeting, and that Commission would be voting from a list of five candidates. Mr. Castillejo reviewed the procedures for the interviews and selected two members, Mr. B. J. Jones and Ms. Arlene Merino, to ask the questions of the candidates. Mr. Castillejo asked Ms. Sarah Wikstrom to keep the time. The candidates were interviewed, and asked two questions which were preselected by Commission members. They were allotted five minutes for their presentation, and two minutes to answer each of the questions. The Commission members voted by secret ballot for the three candidates who would be sent forward to the selection committee of the Board of Visitors. The Board will be meeting on Sunday, April 26, 1998. The three finalists are: Mr. Andrew W. Bishop, Mr. Jeffrey S. Orsulak, and Mr. Seth M. Wood. Mr. Castillejo thanked all the candidates for their time and effort that they put forth in this process.

The Commission returned to open session and a motion was made to approve the vote from closed session. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

B. Announcement of Finalists for Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors.

Ms. Melinda Crowder reported that the three finalists for the Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors are: Ms. Laura A. Bayless, Mr. Emet L. LaBoone, and Ms. Roxene M. Thompson. These candidates will be introduced to CSA at the April 16, 1998, meeting.
C. Student Budget Board Funding and Appeal Process.

Ms. Melinda Crowder distributed information concerning the amounts of the allocations for the student organizations for 1998-1999, and because of the short timeline for getting approval of the allocations, asked that first reading be waived. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to waive the first reading.

Ms. Crowder distributed the 1998-99 Student Activity Fee Appropriation Recommendation. She reported that this year they were able to distribute $804,715.00. The 1998-99 income included $33,665 transferred from the contingency fund; $1,050 from the small grant fund, and the 1998-99 Block Grant from Activities Fees was $770,000. The 1998-99 appropriations schedule is:

Student Organization Accounting Office $ 2,000
Summer Leadership Employment Program 31,500
Music Copyright Fees 8,000
Student Budget Board Small Grants 2,000
Student Budget Board Contingency 25,000
Student Budget Board Annual Funding 561,215
SGA Budget Board Funding (all) 140,000
GSA Budget Board Funding (all) 35,000

Ms. Crowder stated that nineteen organizations requesting $725,483 are funded for a total of $561,215 or 77% of aggregate requests. In contrast, undergraduate and graduate registered student organizations were funded at less than 50% of aggregate requests.

Ms. Crowder fielded questions, and then informed the Commission members that if anyone has a question specific to their organization, they should make an appointment with her. Appeals will be considered by the Commission on Student Affairs on April 16. Organizations wishing to appeal the recommendations should submit a written statement to Betty Eaton, Secretary to the Commission on Student Affairs, 326 Burruss Hall prior to 5:00 p.m. on April 9.

Motion was made, second, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the Student Budget Board appropriations for 1998-99.

Ms. Crowder reviewed the appeals process and instructed CSA that the appeal statement must outline the specific recommendations being appealed and reason for the appeal. According to the funding policies established by CSA, appeals may only be based on the following criteria: 1) established policies and procedures were not followed; 2) the organization was denied the opportunity to present significant evidence at the time of the hearing; and 3) the funding decision was arbitrary and capricious.

Ms. Crowder encouraged student organizations to review the materials on the allocations, reminded them that the timeframe for making an appeal is very narrow, and to be sure their appeal is sent to the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs by Friday, April 9.

The members of the Appeals Committee will be: Ms. Kelli Campbell, chair, Dr. Edward Spencer, Mr. Jody Olson, Mr. Rush Middleton, and a member selected by the Graduate Student Assembly.
D. First Reading, Student Government Association Resolution, The Student Organization Information Solicitation Resolution.

Mr. Steve Schneider presented the Student Government Association Resolution entitled, The Student Organization Information Solicitation Resolution, for first reading by CSA. This resolution replaces one that was presented by SGA in March, and which was subsequently defeated. A motion was made at that time to review the issue and bring a resolution back before CSA at a later date. Mr. Schneider read the new resolution to CSA, and after some discussion, Mr. Castillejo stated that the resolution will be brought before CSA for second reading at the April 16, 1998, meeting.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Castillejo informed the Commission members that there will be a meeting with representatives from the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office, and Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Board on Tuesday, April 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Room 219, Squires Student Center, to discuss the use and abuse of alcohol on the Virginia Tech campus. They would like to have a group of student leaders and other interested students to have a roundtable discussion on their views of the problems of alcohol use and abuse. Organizational representatives should contact Dr. Cross' office at 231-6262, or by e-mail to beaton@vt.edu to indicate their interest in attending.

The Virginia Tech Chapter of American Fisheries Society Annual Mud Bass Event will be held Saturday, April 11, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Duck Pond.

The Filipino American Student Association will be presenting their Annual Cultural Night on Saturday, April 4, in the Commonwealth Ballroom.

The International Street Fair will be held Saturday, April 4, in downtown Blacksburg.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on April 7-8-9.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Eaton
Recording Secretary