MINUTES

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
December 2, 1999
Room 219
Squires Student Center
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Sean Blackburn, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Laura Bayless, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Kimberly DeGuise, Ms. Lara Digan, Ms. Carolyn Dixon, Ms. Janelle Harden for Ms. Rachal Emery, Dr. JoAnn Emmel, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Ms. Elaine Humphrey, Dr. Martha Johnson, Ms. Marquea King, Mr. Drew Lichtenberger, Mr. Steven Lui, Mr. Aaron McClung, Mr. Chittiappa Muthanna, Ms. Abby Patterson, Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, Mr. Brad Ramsey, Dr. Jennie Reilly, Mr. Charles Rose, Dr. Edd Sewell, Dr. Ed Spencer, Mr. Jeff Sutton, Ms. Alyssa Williams

Absent: Ms. Erica Burroughs, Ms. Jovette Gadson, Mr. Aaron Hill, Mr. Darin Oduyoye, Dr. Brian Warren

Guests: Dr. David Ford, Mr. Marvin Foushee

I. Call to Order

A. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Sean Blackburn announced that the minutes of the November 18, 1999, meeting have been approved electronically and forwarded to University Council for approval.

Mr. Blackburn reminded the commission to advertise the upcoming Board of Visitors student representative elections. More information about the timeline for the election will be forthcoming early next semester.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Approval of Student Budget Board Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 1999, Student Budget Board meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. Old Business

A. Resolution from Commission on Research - Second Reading

Mr. Blackburn distributed a resolution from the Commission on Research, "A Renewed Commitment to Research, Scholarship, and Graduate Education" for the second reading. After a discussion on whether this resolution falls under areas that CSA is responsible for, Ms. Abby Patterson made a motion to support the resolution. Dr. Barbara Pendergrass seconded the motion. During discussion of the motion, commission members expressed concern over the wording of the resolution, and felt we don't have enough information to make a decision at this time. The commission would like to
have a representative from the Commission on Research speak to the group and answer questions. Ms. Patterson withdrew her motion to support. Ms. Laura Bayless moved that we table the motion until we have someone address our concerns. V. New Business

A. Overcrowding, Class Sizes, History Requirement, Summer Courses - Dave Ford

Dr. David Ford, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, addressed the commission on several academic issues. Dr. Ford discussed overcrowding on campus and class sizes. The university has 165 general assignment classrooms, with seven being added when the ACITC building is completed. The university follows SCHEV guidelines for classroom scheduling. The average class size is 42-46, determined by the size of the classroom. Most overcrowding in classrooms occurs when there is an over-demand for a class. The university will keep the 25,000 enrollment cap in an effort to reduce overcrowding. Dr. Ford also discussed the new 15-minute break between Monday, Wednesday, and Friday classes beginning Fall Semester 2000. This change was made due to requests by students and faculty who felt 10-minute breaks were not sufficient to reach classes across campus. In addition to this schedule change, 75-minute classes will be offered on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Dr. Ford addressed the new American history requirement, which begins for students entering Virginia Tech in the fall of 2001. He distributed Dr. Torgersen's Policy Memorandum No. 192, which outlines the requirement and options for meeting the required competency level. Dr. Ford distributed a handout comparing enrollment for 1998 to 1999 summer sessions. Enrollment for summer 1999 was down from 1998 figures; however enrollment for Maymester courses and on-line courses doubled for 1999. Dr. Ford and Mr. Marvin Foushee, from Enrollment Services, answered questions on the topics covered by Dr. Ford. Mr. Blackburn announced that anyone wanting these issues to be revisited next semester should e-mail him at sblackbu@vt.edu.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Blackburn announced that meeting dates for CSA have been set for spring semester. The next CSA meeting will be January 20, 2000.

Mr. Jeff Sutton distributed information about emergency loans from the Financial Aid Office as a follow-up to a discussion on November 18 regarding emergency loans for students.

Ms. Lara Digan announced this was her last meeting. The Panhellenic Council will have a new representative next semester.

Ms. Alyssa Williams announced that the next Budget Board meeting is December 7. Please sign up in Joyce Rolen's office in 225K Squires if you are planning to attend.

Dr. Lanny Cross announced for Dr. Barbara Pendergrass that MAPS is looking for volunteers to help plan the Celebration of Diversity for fall 2000. Please let LaToya King (e-mail lking@vt.edu) know if you or a member of your organization is interested in serving. Dr. Cross also announced that the Third Annual Diversity Summit will be held on January 17, Martin Luther King Day, 5:00-8:00 p.m. in Owens Banquet Hall.
VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary