Minutes
Commission on Student Affairs
341 Squires Student Center
February 27, 1997
3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. John Aughenbaugh, Mr. Grant Maxwell (for Mr. Jay Hulings), Ms. Aimee Rhodes (for Ms. Jennifer Ginther), Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Mr. Gary Markle, Mr. Adam Boitnott, Ms. Ningling Wang, Mr. Terry Lo, Mr. Mike Rush, Mr. Cordel Faulk, Ms. Erin Graham, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Ms. Delia Grenville, Dean Cathy Goree, Dr. Dave Ostroth, Dr. Edward Spencer, Dean Andy Swiger, Dr. Kerry Redican, Ms. Phoebe Crofts, Dr. Delores Scott, Mr. Robert Moser, Mr. Chris Bunin, Mr. Brian Wiersema, and Ms. Monica Ko.

Absent: Dr. Lanny Cross, Dr. Bruce Chaloux, Mr. Jay Hulings, Ms. Lisa Furjanic, Ms. Jennifer Ginther, Mr. Jim O'Connell, Mr. Robert Kottkamp, Dr. Kenneth Rystom, Mr. Jim Friel, and Dr. Johann Norstedt.

Guests: Ms. Sharon Yeagle.

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions. Mr. Aughenbaugh called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Introductions were made at this time.

Dean Goree distributed a press release regarding the death of a VT student, Austin Fox, who died of meningococcemia, a contagious bacterial infection.

2. Approval of Agenda. The chair stated that Mr. Jim O'Connell was not present for today's meeting and was unable to get a proxy for the meeting. Therefore, the second reading of the Class of 1997 Constitution will be placed on the March 13 agenda. Also, the Class of 1998 Constitution will be placed on the March 13 agenda for first reading. Motion was made and seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Approval of CSA Minutes of February 13, 1997. Mr. Aughenbaugh noted the second sentence under the first announcement should read: "He noted all student members of the Commission have a seat at this meeting. Motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected minutes. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Chairs' Comments. Mr. Aughenbaugh distributed a copy of a memo he recently mailed to Minnis Ridenour thanking him for his presentation on tuition and fees for 1997-98. Mr. Aughenbaugh also apologized to Mr. Ridenour for the very low turnout of students at this meeting. He stated the low turnout of students to this meeting sends a message to the administrators that student leaders are not interested in important matters involving students such as tuition and fees. He noted that students had been given an opportunity to affect the decision making process regarding matters of this nature and this opportunity will likely be revisited as to whether it will be continued in the future. A copy of this memo will be attached to the CSA minutes as Attachment A.

Ms. Haden distributed copies of notes from the briefing session with Mr. Ridenour to those students who were not in attendance.

Mr. Aughenbaugh stated that he was soliciting input from Commission members regarding the selection process for the chair and vice-chair of CSA for
1997-98. He requested members who had not responded to him to please do so electronically before they leave for Spring break.

Mr. Aughenbaugh announced that Wanda Dean, University Registrar, would be at the March 13 meeting to address concerns regarding the new grading reform resolution.

Mr. Aughenbaugh announced that Dr. John Fulton, Vice Provost, will be attending the March 27 CSA meeting to address the new academic eligibility policy. This policy was approved by the Board of Visitors on Monday, February 24, 1997.

Delores Scott stated she would like to be on the agenda for CSA after Dr. Fulton's presentation to solicit student input on academic support initiatives that students believe should be in place to support students when the new eligibility policy begins. Mr. Aughenbaugh said he would attempt to find time on CSA's agenda before the semester concluded.

5. Old Business. Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Visitors Resolution - 2nd Reading- Tabled. At the February 13 CSA meeting Mr. Jay Hulings amended the resolution to add a third alternative under the Resolved paragraph: 3) The Commission on Student Affairs and the Board of Visitors will jointly select the representative based on a system mutually agreeable to both bodies.

After some discussion among Commission, motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. There was one positive vote, 22 negative votes, and one abstention. Motion failed.

Library Resources Circulation Resolution - 2nd Reading. Ms. Grenville discussed the GSA Availability and Circulation Enhancement of Library Resources Resolution. Ms. Grenville noted that the resolution is being submitted to the Library Committee in an attempt to end the existing differential treatment afforded patrons of Tech's library in regards to return of library resources and in an effort to encourage circulation of library resources for all patrons.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. Motion was approved. There was one abstention. Mr. Aughenbaugh noted he would forward the resolution to University Council for their approval.

6. New Business

Student Media Relations. Dr. Ostroth noted the legal relations between the Student Media Board and the university had been discussed over a long period of time. He stated there was some ambiguity in regard to how the university provided support to the Student Media.

Currently all Student Media are part of the Student Media Board which is an unincorporated chartered student organization and is not legally part of the university. The university does provide office space and funding through the Student Budget Board. Dr. Ostroth stated in the last decade the total cash flow of the media had grown and it is assumed part of the university for tax purposes. He stated discussion had taken place in regard to setting up Student Media Company, Inc. which would be recognized as a registered student organization. He feels this would put them in a better position in regards to taxes and clarify the Student Media's legal
relationship with the university.

Dr. Ostroth stated a task force consisting of students, faculty, and administrators had been formed to study this matter. They are in the process of preparing a legal document supporting mutual relations between the university and the Student Media Board. The document, when completed, will be taken to the media board for approval and then forwarded to Mr. Ridenour for university approval.

Distribution of Undergraduate Representative to Board of Visitors Applications. Ms. Haden distributed a packet of materials to Commission containing information on the 16 applicants who applied for the undergraduate representative to the Board of Visitors position for 1997-98. Included in the packet was an evaluation sheet to be used in selecting the top six candidates. After some discussion among Commission members, it was the consensus of the group to review the applications and write down their top six candidates on the sheet and return to the CSA meeting on March 13, 1997. The rating process will not be used.

Ms. Haden will e-mail the members of Commission who were not present at the meeting to pick up the applications for review from her office in 326 Burruss Hall.

Ms. Yeagle thanked Chris Bunin and Robby Moser for their good work as representatives of the student body on the Board of Visitors this past year. She noted also how they had helped to increase awareness about their positions.

There was interest among Commission members of having a written report or guide sheet on helpful hints from Robby and Chris prior to the interview process that will occur at the April 10 CSA meeting.

Reports from Recent Board of Visitors Meeting.

Mr. Moser stated he attended a breakfast meeting with the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors. There were also students from the Honors Program, MAPs Program, and graduate students at this meeting. The Board enjoys this association with the students and want to continue these meetings in the future.

At the Student Affairs Committee executive session, Dr. Warren gave a report on alcohol and substance abuse. There was also a panel discussion with staff from the Dean of Students Office and Student Health Services.

Mr. Bunin attended the Academic Affairs committee meeting. The new academic eligibility policy was discussed at this meeting. Other items of interest that were discussed was the future of Hillcrest Hall, football discipline, and graduate student health insurance. There was a tour of the new Jamerson Athletic Center.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
February 22, 1997

Mr. Minnis Ridenour  
Executive Vice-President  
210-B Burruss Hall  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
0148

Minnis,

On behalf of the Commission on Student Affairs, I want to thank you for once again taking time from your busy schedule to address the Commission, and particularly its student members in regards to the 1997-98 tuition and fees. As with your presentation concerning the comprehensive fee last semester, your willingness to share information, to educate those present of the various factors involved, and to answer questions was rather appreciated.

On a negative note, the number of student leaders present for your address was quite small, and more distressing to me, many of the other student leaders who committed to attendance were absent without stated reason. Hopefully, these leaders, or their successors, will take this opportunity more seriously, especially since providing input to and receiving briefings from key decision makers in regards to tuition and fee rates is unheard of at many colleges and universities across the nation.

No matter the aforementioned problem, many of us present found the briefing quite illuminating, and I hope you will continue to offer such information sessions in the future. If you would like to address the Commission on tuition/fees or related items in the remainder of this semester, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John M. Aughenbaugh  
Chair, Commission on Student Affairs