Commission on Student Affairs

February 5, 2004
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes

PRESENT: Sumeet Bagai, Allan Bradley, Tom Brown, Myrna Callison, Cristin Coles, Pat Colleran, Monika Gibson, Caryl Gray, Daniel Richardson for Ben Kearney, Ellen Krupar, Elaine Kwan, Matthew Lieber, Kasey Martin, Vivek Mehta, Clarressa Morton, Vishal Nakra, Jerry Niles, Grant Otto, Brooke Randa, Roberta Snelling, Jane Warner, Chris Wise

ABSENT: Lanny Cross, Ginny Fowler, Pankaj Gupta, Erin Hawkinson, Kim Mitchell, Anand Patel, Nicole Reynolds, Keniah Robinson, Kelly Williams

I. Call to Order

Mr. Vivek Mehta, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Mehta called for approval of the agenda. Ms. Kasey Martin requested that Mr. Chris Wise be added as a speaker for item IV.A. Update on Student Services Fees Committee. The agenda was approved as amended.

III. Old Business

A. Board of Visitors Student Representative Selection Process — distribution of applications for Undergraduate Representative

Mr. Mehta briefly outlined the review procedures for the applications for Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Visitors. The deadline for submitting applications was Monday, February 2. Thirteen applications were received for the undergraduate position; nine for the graduate position. Copies of the undergraduate applications were distributed to the commission for review. Rating sheets are to be returned at the February 19 CSA meeting or returned to Donna Sanzenbach in 112 Burruss. The top six candidates will interview at the March 4 meeting.
Interview questions will be discussed at the February 19 meeting.

B. Resolution CSA2003-2004A (Second Reading) — Myrna Callison

Ms. Callison made a motion to table the resolution until the February 19 meeting because the language of the resolution still needs additional revisions. The motion passed and the resolution will be brought forward for second reading on February 19.

IV. New Business

A. Update on Student Services Fees Committee — Kasey Martin & Chris Wise

Ms. Kasey Martin announced that their committee has been contacting various departments to discuss how the budget cuts have affected their services to students. She will speak with the Athletic Department, Chris Wise will discuss Recreational Sports, Kim Mitchell will bring information about the Student Budget Board and funding that is available to student organizations, and the entire committee will speak with Dr. David Ostroth, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, to get an overall impression of how the budget cuts have affected the students. Ms. Martin asked the commission if there were others who should be contacted. Mr. Tom Brown indicated that the majority of questions they receive in the Student Life and Advocacy Office are related to athletics. He will send a list of these questions to Ms. Martin prior to her discussion with the Athletic Department.

Mr. Chris Wise, Associate Director of Recreational Sports, distributed and discussed a handout on the Recreational Sports budget and how student fees are used in their department. Mr. Wise also discussed how the budget cuts have impacted their department and the services they provide to students.

Ms. Martin asked the commission to send additional questions on student services to her e-mail: ksimmons@vt.edu.

B. Late Fees and Holds on Student Accounts — Vivek Mehta

Mr. Mehta distributed and discussed a handout written by Mr. Ben Kearney, who has researched the issue of why students are dropped or have a hold on their accounts. A question and answer period followed, and the commission decided to invite Evelyn Ratcliffe from the Bursars Office to the next meeting to address the
top concerns: 1) Can students be notified via e-mail when a hold has been placed on their account? 2) How many students are being purged due to non-payment? What can we do for students who have been purged? Can their classes be automatically reinstated after fees are paid?

V. Announcements

Mr. Mehta asked if other committees had anything to report. Ms. Myrna Callison reported that the Health Care Committee would be meeting with Jean Baker from Schiffert Health Center.

In other announcements, Mr. Allan Bradley announced that the 5th Annual Henry J. Dekker Leadership Conference will be held on March 3, 7:00-9:30 p.m. at the German Club Manor. Application deadline is February 25. Apply online at www.vtgc.net/leadership.

Mr. Grant Otto announced that LGBT will hold a mock wedding ceremony on the drill field on February 19th in honor of Freedom to Marry Day.

Ms. Brooke Randa announced that VTU has the following upcoming events: Guster, Carbonleaf, and the Graham Colton Band on March 1, 7:00 p.m. in Burruss Auditorium. The movies, Glory and The Color Purple, were shown in honor of Black History Month. The date for Titanic changed from February 25 to February 24.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recorder