Present: Ms. Madonna Mendoza, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Laura Bayless, Ms. Jovette Gadson (for Mr. Jamaa Bickley-King), Mr. Andrew Bishop, Mr. Sean Blackburn, Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Mr. Matthew Chan, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Jennifer Wenzke (for Ms. Lori Crowe), Ms. Lara Digan, Ms. Judy Fielder, Ms. Jennifer Gittes, Ms. Kara Gittes, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Ms. Marcia Haradon (for Ms. Alex Iannucci), Mr. Jody Olson, Mr. Daniel Palmer, Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, Dr. Delores Scott, Dr. Edd Sewell, Dr. Edward Spencer, Ms. Roxene Thompson, Mr. Paul Wagner, Dr. Brian Warren

Absent: Mr. Davis Bailey, Dr. Robert Bates, Ms. Lauren Esleeck, Dr. Martha Johnson, Mr. Brad Ramsey, Dr. Peter Rony, Mr. Ferat Sahin

I. Call to Order. Dr. Landrum L. Cross announced that Ms. Madonna Mendoza, who has been serving as vice chair, will be chairing the meetings for the spring semester. Mr. Clyde Harris, who served as chair during fall semester, has had to resign from the position for personal reasons. Dr. Cross then turned the meeting over to Ms. Mendoza.

Ms. Mendoza reported that the minutes of the December 3, 1998 meeting of CSA had been approved electronically.

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

III. Committee Reports

A. Judicial Affairs Review Committee: Ms. Laura Bayless reported that Mr. Jeff Cullen is continuing to receive responses from the Association of Student Judicial Affairs, but that the committee has not met.

B. Mr. Sean Blackburn reported that the CSA Membership Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting on Friday, January 22, 1999, at 3:00 p.m., and will submit their recommendation to CSA at a future meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Ms. Mendoza introduced Ms. Jovette Gadson, who will be representing Mr. Jamaa Bickley-King, and Ms. Jennifer Wenzke, who will be representing Ms. Lori Crowe until her return. Mr. Jody Olson introduced Mr. Daniel Palmer, the new vice president for the Student Government Association. Ms. Lara Digan was introduced as the new president of Panhellenic Council.

B. Ms. Mendoza opened the floor for nominations for vice chair of CSA. Dr. Edward Spencer nominated Mr. Sean Blackburn. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to name Mr. Blackburn as vice chair for the remainder of the spring semester.

C. Dr. Benjamin Dixon, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, gave a
presentation on campus and classroom climate at Virginia Tech. He reported
that since his arrival at Virginia Tech, he has been pulling together some of
the ideas he brought with him, and also other information regarding the
history at Tech around the issue of diversity and multiculturalism.

Dr. Dixon stated that in the fall of 1998, President Torgersen declared
that he would be establishing the Office of the Vice President for
Multicultural
Affairs. At that time, Dr. Torgersen issued a campus-wide letter stating that
the basic charge of the office would be to bring together and focus the
direction and momentum on the efforts to increase diversity and attention to
multicultural affairs on the campus involving students, faculty, and staff.
He stated that diversity is at the heart of education, and that model
institutions have mission statements that celebrate diversity, administrative
involvement, linkages with minority communities, strong and numerous student
support services, involvement of academic departments, active recruiting of
minority faculty members, training and rewards for all faculty for developing
multicultural approaches in teaching and research, and a multicultural
emphasis for all students.

Dr. Dixon reported that their mission is to provide leadership and direction
for the continuous assessment and improvement of university-wide efforts to
create and sustain a more diverse and inclusive community of learners; to work
collaboratively with other university units to build a capacity to recognize
and value difference, encourage and support positive interactions between and
among diverse populations, and maximize the benefits of a multicultural
perspective; and to advise the President and university leadership on the
policies, programs, practices and resources needed to achieve excellence,
equity and effectiveness in the research, teaching and learning, and outreach
activities of the university. They will be conducting an assessment of campus
climate to identify and assess the different diversity characteristics within
the campus community; conduct an assessment of campus climate and inventory
the assets and tools that exist to address issues; and use findings from
studies
and conversations with faculty, staff and students to advise the President and
senior staff members on matters related to diversity, multiculturalism,
equity, and quality.

Dr. Dixon stated that planning will include determining the most effective
ways to manage the variety of differences within the campus community,
developing a strategic plan to guide the university's activities related to
diversity and multiculturalism, and collaborate with individuals and
organization units to assist and advocate for those persons who have
special needs and/or significant cultural differences.

Dr. Dixon also reported that the development is the third leg of their journey
to help bring about positive changes, advise and address campus climate,
increase the diversity on campus, and develop consensus on how the university
defines and applies the values or principles of "equity," "diversity," and
"multiculturalism."

Dr. Dixon told the commission members that he is open to any suggestions and
recommendations they may have, and to send those recommendations to him at
bdixon@vt.edu.

A question and answer session followed, after which Ms. Mendoza thanked Dr.
Dixon for his presentation.
D. Ms. Mendoza distributed the applications for the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Representatives to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. Mr. Andrew Bishop reported on the position of undergraduate student representative, and stated that the basic responsibility is not just to attend the board meetings, but to also attend other functions and meetings, and to speak on behalf of their constituents to groups such as faculty, administration and the board members themselves. He stated that the representative can make an impact directly and indirectly by bringing an awareness of issues and concerns to the board. He encouraged everyone to consider applying for the position and to recommend it to their constituents. Ms. Roxene Thompson, graduate representative, reported that the board meets four times a year, and that it is not just the function of the representatives to attend these meetings, but that they are "on duty" all the time by interacting with students, answering questions concerning problems they may have, and by letting the board know what is going on with the students. Ms. Thompson stated that these are non-voting positions. She reported that there will be two informational meetings concerning these positions. These meetings will be held January 27 and February 3, 4:00 p.m. in 110 Burruss Hall.

E. Ms. Nicki Cantrell reported on the process of funding requests and appeals to the Student Budget Board. She stated that all requests for funding are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 25, and that hearings will begin February 2. She reported that deliberations will be the week after spring break, and funding requests will be brought before CSA by April 1, and the CSA Student Budget Board Appeals Committee will then hear appeals. The chair of the subcommittee from CSA will send information to all organizations appealing their funding requests.

Ms. Cantrell stated that they have requested that $800,000 be set aside for student organization programming and activities. They have been at level funding at $770,000 for several years, so their request would be about a 4% increase. She stated that they have not yet received information concerning approval of the $800,000, but every indication is that they will receive it.

Ms. Cantrell questioned the funding for the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad. Dr. Cross stated that CSA took action in the fall semester, and that a letter was sent from CSA requesting that "the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad should not expect to receive funding from the Student Budget Board for 1999-2000, and that their budgetary needs will have to be met through the budgeting processes from Student Health Services." He stated that there is a concern as to whether or not it is appropriate for CSA or the Student Budget Board to say that an organization cannot be considered for funding. Dr. Ed Spencer stated that the CSA report suggested that funding should come through the Student Health Services budget, but that like all student organizations, the Rescue Squad could apply for educational programming funds through the Student Budget Board.

V. Announcements

Dr. Cross stated that CSA student members will be receiving an e-mail invitation to a meeting on February 2, 4:00 p.m., in the President's Board Room, 212 Burruss Hall. Mr. Dave Chambers from the Athletic Department will be attending to discuss the football ticket distribution policy, and
Dr. Charles Steger, vice president for development, will be talking to the student leaders regarding a special event he is planning.

Ms. Mendoza distributed copies of applications for the Virginia Governor's Fellows Program.

Dr. Delores Scott announced that the Task Force on Academic Advising will be meeting in mid-February, and will begin discussions with students then.

Ms. Wenzke reported that Lori Crowe will be returning to school sometime in February, but is unsure at this time when she will be returning to CSA meetings.

Dr. Barbara Pendergrass distributed copies of the Black History Month brochure and a MAPs flyer. There will be a MAPs interest meeting on January 26, 1999, 6:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center, 140 Squires Student Center, and encouraged CSA members to attend.

Dr. Brian Warren distributed a flyer titled "Enhance Yourself" which lists programs within the Cook Counseling Center for spring semester.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.