Minutes
Commission on Student Affairs
Brush Mountain Room B
January 23, 1997
3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. John Aughenbaugh, Dr. Lanny Cross, Dr. Bruce Chaloux, Mr. Jay Hulings, Ms. Lisa Furjanic, Mr. Jim O'Connell, Mr. Gary Markle, Mr. Adam Boitnott, Ms. Ningling Wang, Mr. Terry Lo, Mr. Mike Rush, Ms. Erin Graham, Mr. Jimmy Friel, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Ms. Delia Grenville, Dr. Cathy Goree, Ms. Claressa Morton (for Dr. Dave Ostroth), Dr. Edward Spencer, Dean Andy Swiger, Ms. Phoebe Crofts, Mr. Robert Moser, Mr. Chris Bunin, and Mr. Brian Wiersema (for Mr. Dave Shuster).

Absent: Ms. Jennifer Ginther, Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Mr. Robert Kottkamp, Dr. Kenneth Rystrom, Ms. Gerri Johns, Dr. Dave Ostroth, Dr. Johann Norstedt, Dr. Kerry Redican, Dr. Delores Scott, Mr. Dan Obusan, and Mr. David Shuster.

Guests: Ms. Sharon Yeagle and Mr. Cordel Faulk.

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.

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

3. Approval of December 5, 1996 CSA Minutes. Ms. Crowder noted that on page 2, under item 6, Student Budget Board, 2nd sentence in second paragraph should read "Ms. Crowder noted she had met with the Controllers Office, the Budget Office, and University General Counsel..." Mr. Markle noted that he was absent at the December meeting in lieu of present. Motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected minutes. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Comments from the Chair. Mr. Aughenbaugh distributed handouts on the cost of sprinklers for state colleges in Virginia. He asked Dr. Spencer to comment on this matter.

Dr. Spencer stated there were five high rise dorms at VT that would require installation of the sprinkler system. These systems have been estimated to cost VT $5.6 million. He noted that he is hopeful that the General Assembly will help support this project with state funds, but as state law requires auxiliaries to be self-supporting, then the residence halls will be requested to raise their own funds. He also stated that Tech plans to start installation this summer with one of the halls.

Mr. Aughenbaugh noted that the President gave a brief report at University Council meeting on the capital campaign. He noted that $225 million had been raised towards the $250 million goal.

Mr. Aughenbaugh stated that Ms. Haden had been in touch with Mr. Ridenour's office and was informed that the fees for 1997-98 will not be approved until the April Board meeting. He noted that the meeting with Mr. Ridenour and student representatives will be the first week after Spring break. He will inform members of the date, time and place of this meeting when it is confirmed.
Mr. Aughenbaugh stated that he had been in touch with Dr. Mike Denbow regarding the M-W-F class schedule resolution and Dr. Denbow is ready to address some of the previously stated concerns the Commission had regarding this resolution. Dr. Denbow will attend the February 13 meeting to address these concerns and the Commission will have an opportunity to bring the resolution off the table.

Mr. Aughenbaugh asked Mr. O'Connell if he had obtained copies of the minutes from the Commission on Academic Support meeting regarding holiday traffic. Mr. O'Connell will secure these minutes by the next meeting of CSA.

5. Student Budget Board. A. Approval of 11/18/96 Minutes. Motion was made and seconded to approve the November 19, 1996 SBB minutes. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Change to Food and Beverages Policy/Procedures of SBB. Ms. Crowder noted that the change in Food and Beverages section of the SBB Policies and Procedures was on the floor for first reading. The following sentences will be added to item 2 under Food and Beverages on page 9 of the SBB Policies and Procedures. "Funding requests for cultural food samplings will be closely scrutinized and must include a detailed list of food items to be served. Funds may not be reallocated to food line items with the exception of food service supplies without prior Board approval."

This item will be on the February 13, 1997 CSA agenda for second reading.

C. Discussion of Budget Board 1997-98 FY Allocation Request. Ms. Crowder stated that she had requested $770,000 be set aside from student activities fees to fund student organizations' programs and activities for the 1997-98 academic year. She noted that this request has represented level funding since 1993-94.

Ms. Crowder reviewed with Commission members a handout that entails factors considered when developing 1997-98 block grant requests and factors considered when budget boards make annual decisions. She also discussed with members a chart depicting student activity fee distribution to student organizations from 1992-97 and student organization annual funding carryover at year end.

Ms. Grenville requested a breakdown of funding received by individual organizations and the amount of carryover at year end which Ms. Crowder agreed to provide on an individual request basis.

6. Old Business. 1995-96 Comparative Data on Fan Behavior at Football Games. At the request of the Commission at its December meeting, the Dean of Students office prepared comparison data of stadium related judicial activity for 1995-96 and 1996-97. Dean Goree distributed this analysis information to Commission members for their review. It was noted from this information that the number of cases and the number of students involved had increased from the 1995-96 reporting period.

Ms. Furjanic noted a discrepancy in the number of violations and the types of violations. Dean Goree will review this information with Jerry Riehl in her office and send a corrected copy of the report to Commission members.
7. New Business. Grading Reform Resolution – 1st Reading. Mr. Hulings presented a grading reform resolution for first reading that would give the professors the option to assign an A+ with a 4.3 weighting on a 4.0 scale. He noted that 2/3 of Virginia Tech’s benchmark institutions have already adopted a similar scale. He stated that he felt VT students were put at a disadvantage by not having the opportunity to get a 4.3. He noted the students were having to compete against students receiving a 4.3 in regards to graduate school acceptance and job placement.

Ms. Grenville requested Mr. Hulings to get information regarding state wide grade inflation. Dr. Chaloux noted that he would like to have information provided to Commission stating how VT students have been hurt by the existing grading policy.

Mr. Hulings will present this information at the February 13 CSA meeting.

Amendment to the Process of Selection of the Undergraduate Representative to the BoV Resolution – 1st Reading. Mr. Hulings distributed a resolution whereby the process of selecting the undergraduate student representative to the Board of Visitors be changed to one of the following alternatives:

(a) The Commission on Student Affairs autonomously select the student representative from a pool of applicants, or

(b) The Commission on Student Affairs rank in order of preference three candidates from which the Board of Visitors would select one candidate.

Mr. Hulings noted that the student organizations represented on the Commission are the designated representative of the student body and are capable of selecting a qualified individual to represent the view of the undergraduate students to the Board of Visitors.

This resolution will be on the agenda for second reading at the February 13 meeting.

CSA Spring Semester Agenda. Mr. Aughenbaugh distributed a memo to Commission members regarding the Spring Semester agenda and issues to be addressed. Mr. Aughenbaugh stated that before Christmas break he had requested Commission members to list three issues that they would like to have addressed during Spring semester. There were 10 members who responded to this request and the top three issues they wanted addressed were student media relations, new academic eligibility policy, and football player behavior.

Ms. Grenville stated that since only 10 members responded to this request, she felt it would be appropriate to have Commission members vote today on three of the issues to be addressed from the list that Mr. Aughenbaugh distributed.

Motion was made and seconded to have members vote on three issues to be addressed from the list presented at today’s meeting. Motion was approved with 22 positive votes. There was 1 negative vote.

A list of issues was distributed to Commission members for voting. The top three issues receiving the most votes were: student media relations, new academic eligibility policy, and international student concerns. Mr. Markle, noting importance of football player behavior as an issue, asked
the chair to see if, schedule permitting, CSA could address this issue. Mr. Aughenbaugh agreed to make an effort in this regard.

Mr. Aughenbaugh noted that he would revise the spring semester timeline before the next CSA meeting in February.

8. Announcements

Mr. Hulings announced that SGA elections would be held March 25-26, 1997.

Mr. Markle announced that there would be a bus tour of some of the fraternities and sororities with Blacksburg town officials regarding the rezoning issue.

Ms. Grenville announced there would be GSA officer nominations on January 30, with elections to be held at its February meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.