Commission on Student Affairs  

March 17, 2005  
3:30-5:30 p.m.  

Brush Mt. B  
Squires Student Center  

Minutes  

Present: Sumeet Bagai, Steve Burrell, Ricky Castles, Scott Cheatham, Lanny Cross, Sujit Ekka, Ginny Fowler, Monika Gibson, Caryl Gray, Lauren Healey, Alvaro Higuera, Jamie Kalista, Ben Kearney, Grant Otto, Brittany Rossmeier, Jory Zmuda Ruscio, Dhaval Shah, Jason Shank, Roberta Snelling, Devin Weller  

Absent: Tom Brown, Melinda Cep, Muhammad Ahmad Chuhtai, Robyn Daniel, Bennie Kingwood, Erik Kneubuehl, Paul Knox, Ellen Krupar, Marcus Ly, Tarvaris McCoy, Orien Patterson, Jane Warner, Chris Wise  

Visitors: Tim Hodge, Frances Keene, Dwight Shelton  

I. Call to Order  

Mr. Grant Otto, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.  

II. Adoption of Agenda  

Mr. Otto called for adoption of the agenda. Mr. Sumeet Bagai made a motion to add “Updates to SGA Constitution” under New Business. Mr. Otto indicated the new item would be A, moving “Student Tuition and Fees” to B because the guest speakers requested to be last on the agenda due to another meeting they were attending. The motion was seconded and passed. The agenda was adopted as amended.  

III. Old Business  

A. CSA Resolution 2004-2005C, Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life (second reading)—Frances Keene  

Ms. Keene, Acting Director of Judicial Affairs, presented the resolution for second reading and outlined the changes they made based on feedback at first reading. The resolution addresses the following: University Judicial Procedures; Stalking Policy, and Inclusion of a Formal Organization Event Definition for Student Organizations. A question and answer period followed. Some members of the commission expressed concern over Part III, under Criteria for Determining an Organization Event: e) The event involves six or more members of the organization. Following a lengthy discussion, there was a motion to amend e) as follows: “The event involves six or more members of the organization; should the organization be composed of more than 30 active members then the number would increase to approximately 20 percent of membership.” (Added text in italics.) The motion was seconded. The commission voted on the amendment and it did not pass. There was a motion
to vote on the three sections of the resolution separately. This motion was seconded and passed. Each section was voted on separately, and all three sections passed. The resolution will go to University Council for first reading on April 4.

B. Student Budget Board—Steve Burrell

Mr. Burrell announced that the Student Budget Board was still finalizing the Annual Funding Recommendations for next year; therefore, the budget wasn’t ready for approval. There was a motion to table these two items until the April 7 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

1. Approval of Annual Funding Recommendations
2. Appointment of Appeals Sub-Committee

IV. New Business

A. Updates to SGA Constitution (first reading)—Sumeet Bagai

Mr. Bagai presented the updates to the SGA Constitution for first reading and distributed a summary of the changes. The changes pertain to: the function of the SGA Secretary and Vice President, the creation of Speaker of the Senate, the function of the Judicial Branch, and elimination of the Elections and Credential Committee. Second reading will take place at the April 7 meeting.

B. Student Tuition and Fees—Dwight Shelton and Tim Hodge

Mr. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Budget and Financial Management, thanked the group for letting him speak again this year. He had intended to give this presentation before the Board of Visitors approved the tuition and fee rates on March 14, but spring break fell just before the Board meeting this year so the timing didn’t work out. He distributed handouts, Proposed 2005-2006 Tuition and Fees, and a chart showing the composition of the $69 increase in the 2005-2006 Comprehensive Fee. He discussed the Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act, previously called the charter bill. The General Assembly passed the Act at their recently concluded session and they expect the Governor to sign it in April. The Act will allow greater flexibility and predictability in the management of university resources. Mr. Shelton said tuition shouldn’t increase more if the Act is passed, but it will depend on how much funding we receive from the State in the coming years. The Act requires that the university prepare a six-year financial plan that will be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly. The six-year plan falls within the university’s update of the Strategic Plan. They hope to have both plans completed by the end of fall semester of 2005.

Mr. Tim Hodge, University Budget Director, then discussed the handout on proposed tuition and fees for 2005-2006. The proposed increases for tuition are as follows: Virginia Undergraduates--9.9%; Out-of-State Undergraduates--7.2%; Virginia Graduates--6.0%; Out of State Graduates--9.6%. Mr. Hodge outlined the proposed increases to fees and room and board rates for next year. He also compared Virginia Tech’s tuition and fees to our public peer institutions and
other Virginia institutions.

Mr. Shelton and Mr. Hodge opened the floor for questions. It was suggested that the information presented to the commission be made available to the student body in order to explain the increases. It was also suggested that in future years, information on proposed increases be released before the Board approves it, so the students won’t be surprised by the increases. Mr. Shelton said they will look into this for next year and see if information can be released before Board approval. He pointed out that once the six-year plan goes into effect, the plan will be public and anyone will be able to look several years ahead at projected tuition rates. Mr. Bagai asked for more information on how the $248 comprehensive fee is spent. Mr. Hodge will forward this information to the commission via e-mail. At the conclusion of the question and answer period, the speakers indicated they are both available via e-mail for additional questions (Mr. Shelton mdsjr@vt.edu; Mr. Hodge tlhodge@vt.edu).

V. Announcements

Mr. Dhaval Shah announced that events for the first Asian Heritage Month will be held throughout April. Events will be announced in the Collegiate Times, and everyone is invited to attend.

Mr. Sumeet Bagai announced that SGA elections will be held on March 29-30, and there will be an SGA candidate debate on March 23, 8:00 p.m., Colonial Hall of Squires.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary