MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
Brush Mountain Room B
March 18, 1999
3:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. Madonna Mendoza, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Laura Bayless, Mr. Jamaa Bickley-King, Mr. Andrew Bishop, Mr. Sean Blackburn, Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Mr. Matthew Chan, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Lori Crowe, Ms. Lara Digan, Ms. Judy Fielder, Ms. Jennifer Gittes, Ms. Kara Gittes, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Ms. Alex Iannucci, Dr. Martha Johnson, Mr. Jody Olson, Mr. Daniel Palmer, Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, Mr. Brad Ramsey, Dr. Delores Scott, Dr. Edd Sewell, Dr. Edward Spencer, Mr. Paul Wagner, Dr. Brian Warren, Mr. Jason Wiker

Absent: Mr. Davis Bailey, Dr. Robert Bates, Dr. Peter Rony, Mr. Ferat Sahin, Ms. Roxene Thompson

I. Call to Order. Ms. Madonna Mendoza, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Ms. Mendoza reported that the minutes of the March 4, 1999 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. New Business

   No new business to report.

IV. Old Business

A. Undergraduate Student Representative to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors

Ms. Mendoza distributed a memorandum to commission members which included information on the process for interviewing the candidates for the position.

Dr. Landrum Cross announced the names of the six semi-finalists for the position of Undergraduate Student Representative to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. They are Mr. Ramsey Duck, Ms. Jovette Gadson, Ms. Dana Gangewere, Mr. Craig Morin, Mr. Darin Oduyoye, and Ms. Katherine Snyder. The six candidates will appear before CSA at their April 1 meeting at which time they will be asked to give a five-minute presentation to the commission on their qualifications for the position. CSA will then vote in closed session for the three semi-finalists to be forwarded to the selection committee of the board of visitors. The selection committee of the board will interview the three undergraduate semi-finalists, as well as the three graduate semi-finalists, at their April 25 meeting. The two successful candidates, graduate and undergraduate, will be announced at the full board meeting on April 26.

B. Second Reading, Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1998-99A, Commission Membership

Mr. Sean Blackburn presented the Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1998-99A, Commission Membership for second reading. This resolution states
that the membership of CSA should be changed to reflect greater efficiency and equity. The resolution resolves that the membership of the commission should be changed to remove the representatives of the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes and to have one representative from the Class System; to remove the representative of the Extramural Sports Federation; and to add the Black Student Alliance and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance.

Ms. Mendoza opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Alex Iannucci, president of the Extramural Sports Federation, stated that her organization approves of the removal of this seat on CSA. After considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution to retain the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class representatives and remove #7, "A Representative from the Class System." Motion to amend the resolution failed with three abstentions. A motion was then made and seconded to vote on the resolution as written. The resolution passed and will be forwarded to University Council for their April 5, 1999 meeting.

C. Second Reading, Student Government Association Resolution, "Resolution Against Extending Enforcement Hours for Parking Lots Designated Faculty/Staff" and "Code of Conduct Resolution"

1. Mr. Jody Olson presented for second reading a resolution from the Student Government Association, "Resolution Against Extending Enforcement Hours for Parking Lots Designated Faculty/Staff." This resolution concerns the motion made at a meeting of the Faculty Senate on February 16, 1999, stating that "The Virginia Tech Faculty Senate supports extending enforcement of hours for all or parts of lots designated F/S to 9:00 p.m." The Student Government Association disagrees with the implementation of this proposal and asks that CSA support the resolution.

The floor was opened for discussion. It was suggested that the Student Government Association add another "Whereas" to the resolution to state, "The Commission on Student Affairs supports this resolution." Another suggestion was to have the Commission on Student Affairs endorse the resolution as written and to have a letter sent along with the resolution to Parking Services stating that the Commission on Student Affairs endorses the Student Government Association resolution. A motion was made and seconded to send the letter and resolution to Parking Services. There was one objection. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the resolution as written, and a letter will be sent to Parking Services from CSA endorsing the SGA resolution.

2. Mr. Olson then presented for second reading a resolution from the Student Government Association, "Code of Conduct Resolution." This resolution deals with future connections between Virginia Tech, its logos and approved collegiate apparel made in sweatshop conditions, and urges Virginia Tech to adopt a Code of Conduct which mandates that companies licensed to use the Virginia Tech logos guarantee that those products are not made under sweatshop conditions.

Mr. Olson stated that there is one change from the first reading. The last "Resolved" should read, "That a Code of Conduct must include a living wage clause that mandates that workers making products baring the Virginia Tech logo be paid a subsistence wage appropriate for their local community and also include the workers' right to collective bargaining." Discussion followed. It was stated that the words "Code of Conduct" should be changed so as not to be confused with Virginia Tech's Student Code of Conduct. It was pointed out that the words "Code of Conduct" are being used nationwide concerning this matter, and should not be changed. It was further stated
that more research should be done in this matter before voting to approve the resolution, and a motion was made and seconded to table the resolution. Motion passed. The chair of CSA will contact someone who is knowledgeable about the sweatshop issue to attend a future meeting for further discussion. This item will be added to the April 1 agenda with the understanding that it may be necessary to move it to the April 18 meeting because the interviews for the BoV position may require the entire meeting time on April 1.

V. Announcements

1. Ms. Laura Bayless announced that a committee will be meeting to discuss the academic calendar as to whether or not to add a fall break. She asked commission members to contact her if they have any comments or concerns.

2. Ms. Lori Crowe announced that the Colin Powell event has sold all but 78 student tickets, but there are plenty of public and faculty/staff tickets available.

3. Ms. Nicki Cantrell reported that the Student Budget Board allocations will be presented at the April 1 meeting, and that the deadline to appeal the decisions is April 8.

4. Ms. Susan Anderson reminded members that "Take Back the Night" will be held March 24, and that the Clothesline Project will be on display at the Women's Center.

5. Ms. Jennifer Gittes announced that the Student Alumni Association will be distributing information about this group in Alumni Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.