Commission on Student Affairs

March 18, 2004
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes

PRESENT: Sumeet Bagai, Allan Bradley, Tom Brown, Myrna Callison, Mandy Cocco, Cristin Coles, Ginny Fowler, Monika Gibson, Caryl Gray, Ellen Krupar, Matthew Lieber, Kasey Martin, Vivek Mehta, Kim Mitchell, Vishal Nakra, Jerry Niles, Grant Otto, Brooke Randa, Roberta Snelling, Pat Colleran for Nic Temple, Nicole Ton, Kelly Williams

ABSENT: Lanny Cross, Pankaj Gupta, Ben Kearney, Arun Krishnan, Elaine Kwan, Clarresa Morton, Keniah Robinson, Jane Warner, Chris Wise

GUESTS: Puraj Patel, Kelly Obenauer, Melanie Roberts, Jason Shank

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 adoption of the agenda. Mr. Pat Colleran moved to table article B under New Business, Blacksburg Noise Ordinance, until the April 1 meeting. The agenda was adopted as amended.

III. Minutes of March 4th Meeting

Mr. Mehta announced that the minutes of the March 4th meeting have been electronically approved by the commission and sent to University Council for approval.

IV. Old Business

A. SGA Parking Resolution to Change Drillfield Parking Procedures (2nd Reading)

Mr. Sumeet Bagai presented Resolution 2003-2004G, Resolution to Change Drillfield Parking Procedures, for second reading. The resolution requests that Parking Services withdraw the regulation of Graduate and Faculty/Staff only parking until 8:00 p.m. on the Drillfield, and revert back to open parking beginning at 5:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. the following day. Following a question/answer period and discussion, there was a motion to table the resolution until the authors can take the piece back to GSA, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate to get their input documented. The motion passed.
B. SGA Resolution for Altering Hillcrest Honors Community Parking Privileges (2nd Reading)

Mr. Allan Bradley presented Resolution 2003-2004H, Resolution to Alter Hillcrest Honors Community Parking Privileges, for second reading. The resolution requests that Parking Services sell only Resident parking passes, rather than Commuter parking passes, to the undergraduates residing in the Hillcrest Honor Community beginning Fall Semester 2004. Following a question/answer period and discussion, there was a motion to vote on the resolution. The resolution passed and will be forwarded to Parking Services with the other parking resolutions from this year.

C. SGA Resolution Requesting Department Heads to Ask Teachers to Provide Mid-Semester Evaluations (2nd Reading)

Mr. Sumeet Bagai presented Resolution 2003-2004I, Resolution Requesting Department Heads to Provide Mid-Semester Instructor Evaluations, for second reading. The resolution requests that the head of each academic department offer a mid-semester evaluation to the students enrolled in classes in each department in order to further promote advancement in the learning process by benefiting professors and students alike. Mr. Bagai pointed out that the title of the resolution has been changed, as suggested at first reading, to make it clear that students are asking for faculty to be evaluated at mid-semester. They also added wording to make this change to the Faculty Handbook. A question/answer period followed. There was a motion to amend the wording in the Faculty Handbook portion of the resolution as follows: “The minimum university expectation is that evaluations be administered in at least one course twice a semester (one mid-semester, one at the end of the semester) by untenured faculty and at least one course per academic year (one mid-semester, one at the end of the semester within this same course) by tenured faculty.” The motion passed. During the discussion period, there was a motion to amend the wording of the first resolved as follows: “…to offer a mid-semester evaluation of courses and instructors to the students…” to correspond with the language of the resolution title. The motion passed. Several commission members expressed concern about how the evaluations will be received by the department heads and the faculty. There was also concern about how the survey instrument would be designed and how the evaluations would be used by the faculty after completion. Since the changes directly affect the faculty, there was a motion to table the resolution until it can be presented to Faculty Senate for their reaction and comments. The motion passed. It was also suggested that we ask for input from the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence.

V. New Business

A. Introduction of Candidates for Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors
The three finalists for the Graduate Student Representative to the BOV were announced and introduced: Mr. Marcus Ly (unable to attend), Ms. Kasey Martin, and Ms. Susan Tice. The finalists for graduate and undergraduate representative will interview with the BOV Selection Committee on Sunday, March 28. The two representatives will be presented to the full Board on Monday, March 29.

B. Blacksburg Noise Ordinance

Tabled until April 1 meeting.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Mehta announced that the special CSA meeting called for March 25 has been cancelled because the budget office hasn’t received the budget from Richmond. Mr. Mehta asked the commission if they would still like to hear the tuition and fees report when the information becomes available and everyone agreed they would.

Ms. Kim Mitchell announced that Hillel is working on a leadership forum that would consist of two meetings over the next six weeks. She asked that anyone interested in participating to see her after the meeting.

Mr. Allan Bradley announced that KD King, a “male beauty pageant” will be held at Waterstreet Gallery at 7:00 p.m. on March 23. The event is a Kappa Delta project to benefit Prevent Child Abuse America. Mr. Bradley also announced that the Vietnamese Student Association will be holding their cultural show at 6:00 p.m. on March 20 in Squires.

Ms. Brooke Randa made the following announcements for Virginia Tech Union: Big Fish at 8:00 p.m. on March 19 and 20 in Squires Colonial Hall; Open Mike Night at Deets at 7:00 p.m. on March 24; Street Car Named Desire at 7:30 p.m. on March 26 in Burruss Auditorium; Hoobastank, Lostprophets, and Ima Robot at 7:00 p.m. on March 31 in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires; Ludacris on April 27 in Burruss Auditorium. Ms. Randa introduced Kelly Obenauer and Jason Shank from VTU.

Ms. Cristin Coles announced that BSA is sponsoring a speech by Susan St. James, an artist, on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Colonial Hall, Squires.

Ms. Kasey Martin announced that Graduate Education Week 2004 will be held on March 22-26. Several events are planned for the week. The keynote speaker is Dr. Belle Whelan at 5:30 p.m. on March 24 in Owens Banquet Hall.

Ms. Nicole Ton announced that the 2005 Ring Dance and Banquet will be taking place on March 26 and 27 in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires. Both events are open to everyone. The banquet is at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th; the dance is at 8:00 p.m. on the 27th.

Ms. Kelly Williams announced that the Society for Indian Americans will be hosting their annual cultural show at 7:00 p.m. on March 20 in Burruss
Auditorium. Mr. Mehta will be acting as emcee and performing at the show.

Mr. Grant Otto announced that LGBTA is sponsoring Gay Awareness Week the week of March 28. Danny Roberts from the cast of MTV’s Real World: New Orleans will be speaking at 7:00 p.m. on March 30 in Colonial Hall, Squires.

Mr. Puraj Patel announced that SGA elections are taking place on March 30 and 31.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach  
Recorder