MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
Room 154, Squires Student Center
March 19, 1998
3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Kelli Campbell, Mr. Matthew Chan, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Mr. Rush Middleton (for Ms. Lauren Esleeck), Ms. Melissa Smarr (for Ms. Tekisha Everette), Ms. Judy Fielder, Mr. Ryan Ford, Ms. Jennifer Ginther, Dr. Cathy Goree, Dr. Louis Gwin, Mr. B. J. Jones, Mr. Anurag Maheshwary, Ms. Arlene Merino, Mr. Mohammed Osman, Ms. Ann Thomas Hofler (for Ms. Kristi Robinson), Mr. Aaron McClung (for Mr. Steve Schneider), Dr. Delores Scott, Dr. Edward Spencer, Ms. Sarah Wikstrom

Absent: Dr. Lanny Cross, Mr. Markus Grafe, Mr. Michael Herndon, Ms. Gerri Johns, Dr. Martha Johnson, Ms. Krista Johnston, Dr. Johann Norstedt, Dr. Andy Swiger, Dr. Brian Warren, Ms. Jean Marie Whichard, Mr. Brian Wiersema

1. Call to Order. Mr. Raphael Castillejo, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Castillejo announced that there was a quorum for the meeting. He distributed a news article from the Collegiate Times related to campus solicitation.

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

3. Announcement of Approval of March 5, 1998, CSA Minutes. Mr. Castillejo announced that the minutes of the March 5, 1998, meeting had been approved electronically.

4. New Business

A. First Reading, Revisions to University Policies for Student Life

Dr. Cathy Goree, Dean of Students, presented a resolution for revisions to the University Policies for Student Life for first reading. She reported that last fall President Torgersen charged Vice President Cross to review the policies related to abusive conduct, harassment, and use of e-mail to make them clearer and in some cases more enforceable. A committee which included a very diversified group of administrators, faculty, and students was selected to review the policies. The revised sections of the policies which were reviewed by the committee have to be approved by the Board of Visitors. The resolution being presented is in reference to a proposed revision to the Student Code of Conduct, specifically what is now the "Abusive, Disorderly, or Obscene Conduct" policy. Dr. Goree distributed a copy of the resolution, and copies of the current policies from the Hokie Handbook 1997-98 for review. She also reported that sections related to "philosophy," "harassment," and "acceptable computer use" will be discussed at the next CSA meeting, April 16. These sections are not student life policies, and therefore do not have to be approved by the University governance system, but will be brought to CSA as an information item only.

After discussion, Mr. Castillejo stated that the resolution will be presented for second reading at the April 2, 1998, meeting of CSA.

B. Discussion of Length of Appointment of Student Members on CSA
Mr. Castillejo informed the Commission that he had been asked to discuss the matter of the term of office of student members on CSA. He stated that because CSA is an instrument of the University in which the members need to be informed on the discussions and decisions being made, it is important that each member continues on CSA for a full semester, even though they might have turnover in the officers of their organization. The person who has been serving on CSA is cognizant of what the issues are, such as the Board of Visitors representative elections, and last minute resolutions that usually happen at the end of the semester. Under this proposed system, the new members of the organizations would be invited to attend the meetings and sit with the present members, to give them the opportunity to become familiar with the workings of CSA. He stated that, for instance, when an issue has been brought up during the semester and it is time to vote on that issue, the new person is not familiar with the process nor with the information that CSA has discussed.

It was stated from some members of CSA that this would not be advisable, one reason being that the new president may have different views on issues and concerns than the previous one, and therefore, the current process should not be changed.

Dr. Spencer stated that technically, the way the governance system is written, the member sitting on CSA is the current president of the organization, and that member is the voting person, and if the process is changed, we would have to enact a different regulation.

Mr. Castillejo stated that this issue would be discussed with the administration and others, and if necessary, it will be brought to CSA for further discussion and as a resolution for first reading.

5. Old Business

A. Announcement of Six Finalists for Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors and Discussion of Procedures for April 2 Interviews

Mr. Castillejo distributed information concerning the selection process for the Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors for 1998-99, and a list of the six semi-finalists for the position. Those candidates are Deborah L. Barksdale, Andrew W. Bishop, Todd H. Miller, Joyal M. Mulheron, Jeffrey S. Orsulak, and Seth M. Wood. Mr. Castillejo reviewed the procedures which will be followed for interviewing the candidates at the April 2, 1998, CSA meeting. This procedure has been used by the Commission on Student Affairs in previous years and is accepted by the Board of Visitors. The candidate will have five minutes to introduce him/herself and to speak to his/her qualifications and reasons for interest in the position. The candidate will then be asked two questions, which have been approved by the Commission prior to the interviews, and will have two minutes to respond to the questions. The Commission will vote by secret ballot for the top three candidates to be forwarded to the selection committee of the Board of Visitors. These candidates will be interviewed by the selection committee on Sunday, April 26, and the successful candidate will be sent forward for approval by the full Board at their meeting on April 27, 1998.

Mr. Castillejo distributed a list of proposed questions to be asked of the candidates during their interviews on April 2. He asked that members
review the questions and submit their choice of two questions to Dr. Cross by March 27.

6. Announcements

Ms. Melinda Crowder stated that the Student Budget Board awards and the names of the candidates for the Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors will be announced at the April 2 CSA meeting, and it is very important that everyone attend.

Ms. Susan Anderson announced that March 26 is the date for "Take Back the Night" which will be held on the drillfield.

Ms. Kelli Campbell announced that the Black Student Review will be held Thursday night, March 19, in Squires Student Center.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Eaton
Recording Secretary