Minutes
Commission on Student Affairs
219 Squires Student Center
March 27, 1997
3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. John Aughenbaugh, Dr. Lanny Cross, Dr. Bruce Chaloux, Ms. Aimee Rhodes (for Ms. Jennifer Ginther), Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Mr. Gary Markle, Mr. Adam Boitnott, Ms. Ningling Wang, Mr. Terry Lo, Mr. Mike Rush, Mr. Cordel Faulk, Ms. Erin Graham, Ms. Kelli Campbell (for Mr. Jim Friel), Ms. Melinda Crowder, Dr. Cathy Goree, Dr. Dave Ostroth, Dr. Edward Spencer, Dean Andy Swiger, Ms. Phoebe Crofts, Dr. Delores Scott, Mr. Robert Moser, Mr. Chris Bunin, Ms. Monica Ko, and Mr. Brian Wiersema.

Absent: Mr. Jay Hulings, Ms. Lisa Furjanic, Ms. Jennifer Ginther, Mr. Jim O'Connell, Mr. Robert Kottkamp, Dr. Kenneth Rystrom, Mr. Jim Friel, Ms. Della Grenville, Dr. Johann Norstedt, and Dr. Kerry Redican.

Guests: Ms. Sherri Spillman, Mr. Michael Herndon, and Ms. Sharon Yeagle.

1. Introductions - Approval of Agenda. Mr. Aughenbaugh called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Introductions were made at this time.

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

3. Approval of CSA Minutes of March 13, 1997. Motion was made and seconded to approve the March 13, 1997 CSA minutes. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Presentations. International Student Concerns. Mr. Aughenbaugh noted that international student concerns was one of the items that Commission wanted to address during the Spring semester. He introduced Darlene Grega, Director of Cranwell International Center, to speak on this subject.

Ms. Grega stated there were over 1500 international students at Virginia Tech, representing 106 countries. There are 1086 males and 419 females constituting this figure. She noted that 60% of the population is from Asia. Engineering, Business, and Sciences are the top three study areas with electrical engineering being the top major.

Ms. Grega stated that the Cranwell Center was trying to provide for more interaction with American students. Some of the problems encountered by the international students are cross culture, academics, language, immigration issues, and retention issues.

Some of the issues that the international students would like to have addressed are as follows:

Why is there not a residence hall open year round?
Graduate students are concerned because there is limited housing and they feel there should be more options.
More opportunity for international students to look into jobs through Career Services.
There is concern why international students have to take their TB shot over again when they have received shots in their home country.
There needs to be more international student recruiting resources at Career Services. International students would like to have pick-up service from the Roanoke airport.

Mr. Aughenbaugh suggested that Commission members may want to think about the issues that had been presented by Ms. Grega and ways in which Commission could address these issues in the future.

New Academic Eligibility Policy. Mr. Aughenbaugh stated that Commission had also requested to address the new academic eligibility policy at one of the CSA meetings in the Spring. Mr. Aughenbaugh introduced Dr. John Fulton, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, to discuss this matter.

Dr. Fulton noted the new eligibility policy describes circumstances under which students are eligible to enroll or re-enroll at Virginia Tech. He stated the policy sets expectations at an appropriate level and also gives students a realistic chance of achieving a 2.0 requirement for graduation. The goal of the policy is to focus on student success. Dr. Fulton noted the policy had been approved by the Board of Visitors at their February meeting.

Dr. Fulton stated that the University Council had passed the policy under the condition that the university provide enhanced academic support for students. He noted in the Fall there was a call for proposals for projects that would enhance student success. Eighteen of these projects were recommended for funding from the Provost office.

Dr. Fulton requested input from the Commission members. Mr. Aughenbaugh noted that Dr. Delores Scott had been placed on the April 24 CSA agenda to discuss with student leaders how the implementation of this policy can be done in an effective manner.

5. Old Business. A. Class of 1998 Constitution - 2nd Reading. Ms. Rhodes presented the Class of 1998 constitution for second reading. Motion was made and seconded to approve the constitution as submitted. Motion was approved. There was one abstention.

B. Approval of Self Study Must Statements. At the last CSA meeting Commission members were asked to review the responses created by the self-study regarding student affairs, and either approve those responses or modify them accordingly by today's meeting. Dean Goree stated there was a correction under Section 5.4.2, #52, second sentence should read: "However, salaries for AP faculty fall below the median for comparable positions, based on CUPA data." Motion was made and seconded to approve the responses with the noted correction. Motion was approved. There was one abstention.

Mr. Aughenbaugh stated he would give the information to the self study team.

6. New Business. A. Introduction of Graduate Representatives to the Board of Visitors Candidates. Mr. Bunin noted the three finalists for the graduate representative to the Board of Visitors position were Michael Herndon, Julie Ohm, and Sherri Spillman. Mr. Herndon and Ms. Spillman gave a brief presentation to Commission. Ms. Ohm was not able to attend due to previous commitments.
B. Review and Approval of SBB 1997-98 Annual Funding Recommendation. Ms. Crowder distributed copies of the Student Budget Board funding recommendations for 1997-98 for Commission to review and approve. Ms. Crowder noted she would be available to meet with any students individually concerning these recommendations. There were 74 organizations requesting funding for 1997-98.

After review of the document, motion was made and seconded to approve the Student Budget Board recommendations for 1997-98. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Aughenbaugh reminded Commission that the organizations could appeal their funding decision. If they decide to appeal, the appeal must be in writing to Ms. Kathy Haden, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, 326 Burruss Hall, no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 9, 1997. If the appeal is determined to have merit, after a hearing with the SBB Appeals committee, a final and deciding hearing will be held during the last meeting of CSA on April 24.

Mr. Aughenbaugh noted the SBB Appeals committee consisted of Gary Markle, Chair; Ms. Gerri Johns, Mr. Jimmy Friel, Mr. Jim O'Connell, Ms. Lisa Furjanic, and Dr. Bruce Chaloux. He requested these members contact him by April 7 regarding their availability to serve on the committee.

C. Guidelines for Selection of the Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors. Mr. Aughenbaugh distributed a memo to Commission members addressing the undergraduate representative to the Board of Visitors Selection Process. He also disseminated handouts from Chris Bunin and Robby Moser of suggestions concerning the selection of the 1997-98 Undergraduate Board of Visitors Student Representative.

Mr. Aughenbaugh requested Commission members to read the materials distributed and contact him by April 7, 1997 with suggestions for questions to be used during the interview process of the six candidates on April 10, 1997.

7. Announcements

Mr. Aughenbaugh reminded Commission that in addition to the selection of the undergraduate Board of Visitors representative at the April 10 meeting, there will be the selection of the chair and vice chair for CSA for 1997-98.

Ms. Ningling Wang announced that International Week would be held April 4-11.

Ms. Yeagle announced that she had received a call from the Governors Office and 13 VT students had been selected to be interviewed for the Virginia Governors Fellows Program.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.