MINUTES
COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

March 27, 2003
Brush Mtn B
Squires Student Center

3:30-5:30 p.m.


ABSENT: Susan Anderson, Edward Barry, Karen DePauw, Grant Hill, Meredith Katz, Jerry Niles, Kerry Redican, Christian Rieser

VISITORS: Steve Clarke, Hunter Quillen Gresham, Scott Reed

I. Call to Order

Mr. Brian Montgomery, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

III. Minutes from March 13th Meeting

Mr. Montgomery announced that the March 13 meeting minutes had been sent to the commission for electronic approval and asked if anyone had any changes. None were indicated.

IV. Speaker: VT Police Department & UUSA — Security Concerns

Mr. Vivek Mehta introduced Ms. Hunter Quillen Gresham, from Event Services, UUSA. Lt. Jack Ridinger from the Virginia Tech Police Department was invited to speak as well, but was unable to attend. Ms. Gresham discussed the increased security that has been implemented at Virginia Tech. The security procedures were recently reviewed and revised. The original procedures stated that a security request form would be required for all events on campus with attendance of 500 or more; the new procedures require a form for attendance of 300 or more. The Virginia Tech Police review each security request and determine how much security is needed. They take many factors into account, including the size of the crowd, who is attending, where the event is taking place, what day or night it is taking place, and whether the event involves controversial speakers. All events in Burruss Hall require police officers. Ms. Nicki Cantrell pointed out that professional event staff may also be required if the Virginia Tech Police need extra help with checking bags and other security measures. Ms. Gresham said the cost of hiring extra security will be incurred by the event’s sponsoring organization. It is
possible that events will be cancelled if security is required, but is not available because the police are busy with other matters. Blacksburg Police cannot be hired for on-campus events because they do not have jurisdiction on campus. The Virginia Tech Police are trying to hire additional officers and are scheduling more overtime for their officers. Ms. Gresham thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak with them. Security request forms and a list of criteria are available in their office in 221 Squires.

V. Old Business:

A. University Council BOV Resolution

Mr. Montgomery announced that University Council passed a resolution on March 24 stating their displeasure with the resolutions passed by the Board of Visitors at their March 10 meeting. The University Council resolution will be presented to the Board on April 6, when the Board meets in special session. Mr. Montgomery will forward the final version of the resolution to the CSA listserv.

VI. New Business:

A. Gobblernights.com

Mr. Vivek Mehta distributed handouts and discussed Gobblernights.com, a proposed website where student organizations could advertise their alcohol free weekend and late night events. Student organizations are holding many alcohol free events, but don’t have sufficient public relations for these events. Student surveys have shown that an event website would be beneficial. Several departments on campus, including UUSA and the College Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center (CAAPC) have indicated support of the website. Mr. Steve Clarke, Director of CAAPC, also attended to discuss the center’s role in developing and maintaining the website as well as promotional ideas for distributing information about the website. Mr. Scott Reed, Assistant Director of UUSA, provided an overview of the website’s promotional budget. Mr. Mehta said they were bringing this issue to the commission to see if there was enough interest in the website to proceed with the planning stages. The floor was opened for questions and comments. During this discussion, it was decided that this website would be useful if it is successful, a concrete budget and alternative funding sources need to be developed, and the use of existing university calendar websites should be explored.

B. SGA Resolution: Resolution Charging the SGA

Mr. Sterling Daniel, President of SGA, provided an update on the “Resolution Charging the SGA to Respond to the Board of Visitors Non-Discrimination Resolution.” The resolution was passed by the SGA before the Board of Visitors decided they would revisit their decisions at a special meeting on April 6. The SGA decided not to send the resolution to the Board since they were already meeting about these issues. The SGA is still discussing legal action, pending the decisions reached by the Board on April 6. The petitions and letter writing campaign are on hold for now, also pending the April 6 decisions.

C. Student Budget Board
i. Decisions, Appeals, and Timeline

Ms. Kim Mitchell, Chair of the Student Budget Board (SBB), distributed the funding schedule for the SBB. The funding requests will be presented to CSA for approval on April 10. Organization letters will be mailed on April 11, informing the groups of their funding for next year. Ms. Mitchell requested that the commission create an appeals committee for the funding process since appeals are due by April 21. Mr. Montgomery asked for volunteers to serve on the appeals committee. Mr. Pankaj Gupta, Ms. Linda Sikhammountry, and Mr. Trey Church volunteered. Mr. Montgomery will e-mail the commission and ask for a faculty or staff member to serve as chair.

VII. Announcements

A. Elections: Chair and Vice Chair, April 10th bring next year’s officers!

Mr. Montgomery reminded the commission that elections will take place at the April 10 meeting, and asked student organizations to bring next year’s officers and/or representatives.

B. BOV Meeting: April 6th 2:00 PM

Mr. Montgomery announced that the special Board of Visitors meeting was scheduled to take place in 2100 Torgersen at 2:00 p.m. on April 6, but the location could change.

Mr. Montgomery opened the floor for additional announcements.

Ms. Brook Randa announced that The Miracle Worker would be presented at 7:30 p.m. that evening in Burruss Auditorium; James Earl Jones would be speaking at 7:00 p.m. on April 2 in Burruss Auditorium; and Nickel Creek would be performing at 8:00 p.m. on April 6, also in Burruss Auditorium.

Ms. Nicki Cantrell invited the commission to attend the University Student Leadership Awards that evening at 7:00 p.m. in Haymarket Theatre in Squires. Keynote speaker was North Carolina’s Secretary of State, Elaine Marshall.

Ms. Jane Warner announced that April 7-11 is Disability Awareness Week, with events taking place throughout the week. The keynote speaker, Chris Skinner, a graduate student at Radford university, will discuss challenges of living with a disability. His speech is at 7:00 p.m. on April 10 in Rooms D&E of Donaldson Brown.

Mr. Pankaj Gupta announced that International Week would be taking place April 4-13.
The International Street Fair was held at 10:00 a.m. on April 5 in downtown Blacksburg.

Mr. Trey Church announced that Gay Awareness Week would be taking place on March 30-April 2. Judy Shephard spoke at 8:00 p.m. on April 1 in Colonial Hall about hate crimes.

Mr. Sterling Daniel announced the results of the SGA Elections: Brant Snyder, President; Puraj Patel, Vice President; Elaine Giulianai, Treasurer; Becca Stover, Secretary.

Mr. Montgomery announced that Pankaj Gupta was elected president of GSA for next year.

Mr. Vivek Mehta announced that Peddrew-Yates Hall was being dedicated at 11:00 a.m. on March 29.

Mr. Montgomery announced that the Big Event would be taking place at 10:00 a.m. on March 29.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recorder