I. Call to Order

A. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Patrick Wachendorf, serving as chair, welcomed the commission to the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

III. Old Business

A. Proposed Student Leader Development and Employment Program

Ms. Nicki Cantrell presented a proposal for the Student Leader Development and Employment Program. The program will provide leadership training and education for the executive officer of a University Chartered Student Organization represented on the Commission for Student Affairs and three University Student Life Programs (Corps of Cadets, Graduate and Undergraduate Honor Systems). The program will also offer a fall tuition grant and summer employment for the major executive officer of an organization when it is directly linked to summer activities of the organization. Funding for the program would be provided by student activity fees as approved by the Commission on Student Affairs. Currently, Student Budget Board policies disallow direct scholarship aid or grants to students from the student activity fee under their jurisdiction. The program would require special allocation by CSA, which has authority to change Budget Board policies. The commission decided to defer voting on the proposal until Ms. Cantrell discusses the proposed changes with the Budget Board members.
The current Student Leadership Employment Program will remain in effect for summer 2001, with one change: advisors will be required to supervise student work and sign their timesheets. Ms. Cantrell, program administrator, has the authority to make this administrative change to an approved program without a vote by the commission.

B. Upper Quad Traffic Concerns

Several groups from the university spoke to the commission, at its request, concerning a pending resolution pertaining to upper quad traffic and excessive vehicular traffic on campus sidewalks. Mr. Bill Elvey, Director of Physical Plant, gave a brief presentation on the Grounds Division Campus Pride Program. He discussed the issue of vehicles on campus sidewalks. Groups that drive on sidewalks include emergency vehicles, physical plant, mail services, VT Bookstore, CNS, RDP, off-campus suppliers and vendors, contractors, students, faculty/staff. Many buildings on campus do not have service roads, and sidewalks are the only vehicle access for these buildings. For this reason, it isn’t feasible to completely restrict vehicles on the sidewalks. Mr. Elvey said Physical Plant is aware of the sidewalk traffic problems in Upper Quad, but the area has several heavy construction projects underway, and the traffic will continue until the construction is complete.

Physical Plant has been working with Parking Services and the Office of Transportation for two years to develop a policy that would reduce sidewalk traffic and parking on the grass around campus buildings. Mr. Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation, introduced Mr. Richard McCoy, Parking Manager, and Mr. Curtis Lynch, Transportation Planner, and discussed the policy they are developing. In the past, Parking Services has been unable to ticket State vehicles on the grass because there was no policy concerning State vehicles when they were off-road, which would include sidewalks and grass. The new policy will define where State vehicles are allowed, including off-road use. Parking Services will be in charge of enforcement and State vehicles will be subject to ticketing. The policy is nearing completion, and they hope to receive final approval this summer and have it go into effect for fall semester. Mr. Ryan Hartman asked if representatives from RHF and CSA could be involved in the policy-making process. Mr. Mouras said they would be pleased for them to join the process, and asked that the commission send the names of anyone who would like to be involved.

Mr. Larry Bechtel, Recycling Coordinator, and Ms. Pam Winfrey, Director of RDP’s Housing and Facilities, also attended the meeting to discuss their groups use of sidewalks as building access.

Mr. Chris DeMay, Corps of Cadets, discussed the problem of landscaping in the VT area of the Upper Quad. Mr. Elvey suggested that the Corps work with Mr. Matt Gart, landscape architect from the Office of the University Architect, to design the area. Mr. Gart has designed similar plans for other areas of the campus. The Corps would like to expedite the VT area plan because they have received funding for this project from an alumnus. In addition, the Corps would like to use their man-hours to work on this project, and the hours need to be completed by the end of the semester. Mr. Elvey said he will meet with Corps representatives and Mr. Gart to help design the area, and they can work cooperatively to put it into effect as soon as possible. Mr. Jeffrey Newman asked if it is possible to close the VT area to vehicular traffic. The traffic can be greatly restricted, but a complete ban wouldn’t be possible due to service and emergency vehicle access problems.
Mr. Wachendorf thanked the speakers for attending and for their work on the problem. Following a discussion on wording of the two resolutions, a motion was made to table the two resolutions until amended. The amendment will take into account the need for emergency vehicles in the VT area of Upper Quad. The motion was seconded and approved. The resolutions will be brought to CSA for second reading on April 12.

IV. Announcements

Mr. Himu Hasnat announced that International Week will take place from April 6-15, and distributed a flyer of planned events.

Mr. John Lincoln distributed a handout concerning the Campus Awareness and Appreciation Club.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary