Minutes
Commission on Student Affairs
Brush Mountain Room B
November 14, 1996, 3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. John Aughenbaugh, Dr. Lanny Cross, Dr. Bruce Chaloux, Mr. Jay Hulings, Ms. Lisa Furjanic, Ms. Jennifer Ginther, Mr. Jim O'Connell, Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Mr. Gary Markle, Mr. Robert Kottkamp, Ms. Ningling Wang, Dr. Kenneth Rystrom, Mr. Terry Lo, Mr. Mike Rush, Ms. Gerri Johns, Ms. Christina Firestone, Mr. Jim Friel, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Ms. Delia Grenville, Dr. Dave Ostroth, Ms. Pam Winfrey (for Dr. Edward Spencer), Dean Andy Swiger, Dr. Johann Norstedt, Ms. Phoebe Crofts, Dr. Delores Scott, Mr. Robert Moser, Mr. Chris Bunin, and Mr. David Shuster.

Absent: Dr. Cathy Goree, Dr. Edward Spencer, Dr. Kerry Redican, and Mr. Dan Obusan.

Guests: Ms. Sharon Yeagle, Ms. Sarah Wikstrom, Mr. Bill Campion, Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Mr. Charles Rose, Ms. Tara Tuckwiller, Ms. Alicia Cohen, Ms. Joyce Rolen, Dr. Mike Denbow, and Mr. Minnis Ridenour.

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions. 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 October 31, 1996. Motion was made and seconded to approve the October 31, 1996 CSA minutes. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Chairs' Comments. Mr. Aughenbaugh distributed a newspaper article from the Roanoke Times entitled "Gridiron Greenbacks" reference the boost in the local economy on VT home football game weekends.

Mr. Aughenbaugh announced that Larry Hincker would be willing to speak to the Commission sometime next semester reference the Image Study.

5. Old Business. Second Reading of the Class of 1999 Constitution. Mr. Castillejo reviewed the changes in the Class of 1999 Constitution. Motion was made and seconded to approve the constitution with changes. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Second Reading of the SBB Constitutional Changes. Ms. Crowder reviewed the changes under Article III, Membership and Article IV, Officers of the SBB Constitution. Motion was made and seconded to approve the SBB Constitutional changes. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Second Reading of the M-W-F Class Schedule Resolution. Dr. Mike Denbow, chair of the Committee on Academic Support stated that the Commission on Undergraduate Studies had requested support for a resolution regarding a change in the M-W-F class schedule. The change in the resolution calls for a 15 minute break between classes in lieu of the present 10-minute break. This change was necessitated because students who had back to back classes could not get from one class to another class on the opposite side of campus in 10 minutes. The resolution received support from the Committee on Academic Support in March, 1996. Dr. Denbow is presenting this
resolution to other commissions on campus for their input or approval.

There were questions from CSA members as to whether the Blacksburg Transit would change their schedule to accommodate the new class schedule. Dr. Denbow noted he was awaiting a reply from the BT office. Dr. Denbow also noted that larger classes on campus had been polled as to how many students would be affected by the new schedule. He has not received the results from this poll. Dr. Denbow stated that an impact study had been done by the Registrar's Office and it was opposed to the new schedule. That office would prefer to wait until the new student system is on-line before the change in the class system is implemented.

Since Dr. Denbow is awaiting information from several sources regarding this change, Jay Hulings made a motion to table the resolution indefinitely. Motion was made and seconded to approve the motion.

The chair will stay in touch with Dr. Denbow and advise the Commission when more information is available and when the resolution should be reconsidered.

6. New Business. Presentation on Mandatory Comprehensive Fee. Mr. Ridenour gave an overview of the financial structure of the university. The university budget is broken down into three components. There are educational and general funds which include teaching, research, and services. This portion is supported by state tax dollars. The instructional part is supported by state tax dollars and tuition. The auxiliary portion is 100% self supporting in terms of direct costs and 100% of the debt service must be recovered. The third component is sponsored programs which is funded by grants and contracts external to the university.

Mr. Ridenour distributed several charts for Commission to review. He noted the first handout was the tuition costs at Virginia Tech. This is what the students pay in the form of tuition. He noted that out of state students, as a group, pay 100% of the costs. Students, as a whole, pay 51% of the costs. Mr. Ridenour discussed the components of the comprehensive fee. The fee is composed of athletic, bus, recreational sports, student activity, and student health services fees. He also noted the amount of revenue that is contributed to the university from each of these components.

Mr. Ridenour reviewed charts comparing VT with other state supported institutions in regards to tuition, tuition and fees, room and board, and total charges. Virginia Tech is 3rd highest in the state regarding tuition costs, 6th in the state related to tuition and fees, and 15th in the state reference room and board. For total charges, VT ranks 14th in the state.

A survey of charges at other land grant universities was also distributed. In regards to tuition and fees, Virginia Tech is 11th highest; room and board, Virginia Tech ranked 40th among other land grant universities and total charges, Virginia Tech ranked 16th.

After his presentation, Mr. Ridenour entertained questions from Commission. There was consensus of the group that they would like to meet with Mr. Ridenour in February, 1997 regarding the fees for next year. The Vice President for Student Affairs will arrange this meeting. Mr. Aughenbaugh noted that a representative from all organizations on CSA, plus a
representative from the CT should be included at this meeting.

Mr. Hulings asked Mr. Ridenour why students were already paying for the new recreational sports facility when it had yet to be constructed. Mr. Ridenour replied that since the new facility had already incurred costs and the recreational sports department had no reserve capital to cover these costs, the recreational fee had to be raised to cover such costs.

Ms. Grenville asked if, since grads occasionally do not attend activities like athletic departments, components of mandatory comprehensive fee could be optional. Mr. Ridenour responded that scenario could be considered, only if revenue loss was covered by increased fees to other students.

Mr. Aughenbaugh queried if faculty/staff would have to pay to use the new facility, especially since students will pay for its construction. Mr. Ridenour responded that no decision had been made in that regard, but one would have to occur before the facility opened.

SBB Appeals Committee Proposal. Mr. Markle distributed to Commission members the appeals process for 1997-98 Student Budget Board allocation decisions. This handout also included the appeals criteria, appeals hearing schedule, and appeals process overview.

The chair requested Commission to review this proposal and be ready to discuss it at the CSA meeting in December.

Due to time constraints, motion was made and seconded to table the last item under new business - Discussion of BoV Breakfast Meeting with Student Representative - until the December 5 meeting. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.