MINUTES

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
November 18, 1999
Room 219
Squires Student Center
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Sean Blackburn, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Laura Bayless, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Kimberly DeGuise, Ms. Carolyn Dixon, Mr. Chris Pechacek for Ms. Rachal Emery, Dr. JoAnn Emmel, Mr. Aaron Hill, Ms. Elaine Humphrey, Ms. Marquea King, Mr. Drew Lichtenberger, Mr. Steven Lui, Mr. Aaron McClung, Mr. Tom Brown for Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, Mr. Brad Ramsey, Dr. Jennie Reilly, Mr. Charles Rose, Dr. Edd Sewell, Dr. Ed Spencer, Mr. Jeff Sutton, Ms. Jeannie Baker for Dr. Brian Warren

Absent: Ms. Erica Burroughs, Ms. Lara Digan, Ms. Jovette Gadson, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Dr. Martha Johnson, Mr. Ken Keane, Mr. Chittiappa Muthanna, Mr. Darin Oduyoye, Ms. Alyssa Williams

Guests: Mr. Steve Clarke

I. Call to Order

A. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Sean Blackburn announced that the minutes of the November 4, 1999, meeting have been approved electronically and forwarded to University Council for approval. Mr. Blackburn circulated the latest University Council minutes for review.

Mr. Blackburn asked the commission to start recruiting candidates for the student representative positions on the Board of Visitors. The selection process will take place during spring semester, with students being presented to the Board at the March meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Jeff Sutton requested that Emergency Funding for Students be added as an agenda item. Motion was made and seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Approval of Student Budget Board Minutes

The minutes of the October 19, 1999, Student Budget Board meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. Old Business

A. Resolution from Commission on Research - First Reading

Mr. Blackburn distributed a resolution from the Commission on Research, "A Renewed Commitment to Research, Scholarship, and Graduate Education" for the first reading. The commission was asked to consider whether they will support the resolution. After a brief discussion, Mr. Blackburn
announced that the second reading will take place at the December 2
meeting. Dr. Terry Herdman, Chair of the Commission on Research, may be
available to attend the meeting to answer questions.

V. New Business

A. Alcohol Programming - Steve Clarke

Mr. Steve Clarke, Coordinator of Alcohol Abuse Prevention Programs and
Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs, presented an
overview of Virginia Tech's plan to reduce "high-risk" drinking. The
number of alcohol-free activities on Thursday through Saturday nights
has increased, as has the funding and publicity for those events. A new
designated-driver program was implemented. A new campus-wide media
campaign based on "positive social norming" was initiated this fall and
will continue throughout the year. Enforcement of university alcohol
policies has also changed, including off-campus enforcement and parental
notification. Mr. Clarke discussed the new educational sanctions for
alcohol offenders. He also discussed results from the CORE survey, which
indicates significant increases in awareness of alcohol policies,
student involvement in prevention activities, and the belief that
Virginia Tech is concerned about alcohol abuse and enforcing alcohol
policies. Mr. Clarke addressed the commission's questions regarding
counseling, prevention of underage drinking, and enforcement of alcohol
regulations by local bars. Mr. Clarke suggested that student leaders
meet at the beginning of spring semester to discuss alcohol programming.

B. Emergency Funding for Students

Mr. Jeff Sutton led a discussion on emergency funding for students. He
asked that students, especially international students, have greater
access to emergency funding with higher limits. A list of emergency
funding sources is also needed. Mr. Tom Brown from the Dean of Students
Office indicated that they have loans available for up to $300 for
students in an emergency situation, and they are very flexible with the
repayment schedule. The funding for these loans comes from the Parents
Fund, with $2,000-$3,000 available per year. Emergency aid is also
available through the Financial Aid Department for up to $500, but
students must be eligible for financial aid to receive these loans and
most international students are not eligible. Mr. Blackburn announced
that Ray Smoot is on the agenda for February 3 to discuss financial
services, so this issue can be revisited at that time.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Tom Brown announced for Dr. Barbara Pendergrass that the Diversity
Summit on January 17 is in the early stages of planning. They wanted to
know if more students would be able to attend the summit if it were held
from 5:00-8:00 p.m. rather than earlier in the day. After some
discussion, the commission agreed that this time change would increase
participation by students.

Mr. Aaron McClung announced that Order of the Gavel would be meeting on
November 18 at 5:00 p.m. in 219 Squires.

Mr. Blackburn announced that the next CSA meeting will be December 2,
1999.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary