MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
219 Squires Student Center
November 5, 1998
3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Clyde Harris, Mr. Jerry Via (for Dr. Robert Bates), Ms. Laura Bayless, Mr. Jamaa Bickley-King, Mr. Sean Blackburn, Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Mr. Matthew Chan, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Lori Crowe, Ms. Judy Fielder, Ms. Jennifer Gittes, Ms. Kara Gittes, Ms. Alex Iannucci, Dr. Martha Johnson, Ms. Madonna Mendoza, Mr. Jody Olson, Ms. Kristy Robinson, Dr. Peter Rony, Mr. Ferat Sahin, Dr. Edd Sewell, Dr. Edward Spencer, Ms. Roxene Thompson, Mr. Paul Wagner

Absent: Ms. Susan Anderson, Mr. Davis Bailey, Mr. Andrew Bishop, Ms. Lauren Esleeck, Mr. Ryan Ford, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, Dr. Delores Scott, Dr. Brian Warren

I. Call to Order. Mr. Clyde Harris, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

A. Mr. Harris announced that the minutes of the October 15, 1998, CSA meeting had been approved electronically.

B. Mr. Harris asked commission members that, due to several errors in recent stories in the CT, they should refer inquiries from various media to him or someone who is knowledgeable about the issue.

II. Approval of Agenda.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Committee Reports

A. Dr. Edward Spencer distributed a memorandum from the CSA Appeals Committee concerning the report and recommendations on funding for the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad. The Appeals Committee was asked by CSA to study this matter and make appropriate recommendations to the commission. The committee formulated questions and interviewed members of the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad, the Student Budget Board, and the Blacksburg Rescue Squad. Based on the committee's review and interviews, they suggested that, if CSA concurs, the recommendations be sent to university administrators involved in VTRS funding decisions. Those recommendations are:

1. The budgetary needs of the VTRS should be assessed annually by their advisor and the Director of Student Health Services who should then make a budget request for the next year to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Office of Budget and Financial Planning.

2. The sources of funding for each year's budget request should mirror the previous year's breakdown in calls. For example, a request for 1999-2000 VTRS funding should seek about 77% in funding from student fees and 23% in E & G fees.
3. There appears to be justification for an increase in funding from the Department of Athletics to about $6,000, rather than the current $3,000.

4. Student Budget Board funding for the VTRS should be eliminated and instead replaced by an increased allocation from the Student Health Service fee. The SBB is really designed to fund programs and not services. Likewise, recommendations on VTRS funding should come through health professionals and not through the SBB. This change (deletion of SBB funding in return for auxiliary department funding) would be analogous to the change in funding for the Residence Hall Federation about 13 years ago. RHF funding from the SBB was eliminated and replaced by funding from the Residential Programs budget so that housing professionals could make better judgment than could SBB members and so that replacement funding for RHF could come from a logical source: the housing budget. Likewise, we believe that SBB funding for the VTRS should come from another logical source: The Student Health Services budget. Health professionals are in a better position than are SBB members to pass judgment on the budgetary requirements of the VTRS. Also, this shift to Student Health Services funding would result in a more stable source of funding and would be appropriate, given the importance of delivery of emergency service to the Virginia Tech campus.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to support the recommendations of the committee concerning funding for the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad and that the recommendations be forwarded to Mr. Minnis Ridenour, Dr. Brian Warren, Dr. Landrum Cross, and Mr. Dwight Shelton for consideration. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Dr. Martha Johnson reported that the committee reviewing the judicial affairs system met today. They will be sending a questionnaire to peer institutions and six additional Virginia schools -- Radford, George Mason, James Madison, Old Dominion, William and Mary, and the University of Virginia -- to obtain information on their judicial systems. She reported that Mr. Jeff Cullen will circulate the responses back to the committee members prior to Thanksgiving. The next meeting of this group will be held during the second week in December.

IV. New Business

A. Ms. Valerie Conley, assistant director, IRPA, gave a presentation on the institutional/national ranking statistics. She reported on data collected through the rankings from US News and World Report magazine. In the US News America's Best Colleges: 1998 and 1999, it was reported that:

+Virginia Tech moved up in the rankings overall from a relative position of 98 to 88.
+We improved in all areas as reflected by the actual overall ranks received from US News.
+The biggest change in these actual ranks was in the Financial Resources Rank where we moved from a relative position of 140 to 129.
+Our Final Overall Score increased from 54.0 to 57.0.
+Our Reputation Score increased from 2.7 to 3.4.
Our Graduation Rate increased from 73% to 74%.

The Percent of Classes Under 20 increased from 21% to 23%.

The Percent of Classes Greater than 50 decreased from 20% to 18%.

Our Acceptance Rate decreased from 81% to 69%. This was our largest absolute improvement in the key items used in the rankings.

Our Percent of Freshmen in the Top 10% of their High School Graduating Class increased from 30% to 33%.

There was an increase in the Alumni Giving Rate from 19% to 20%.

Ms. Conley informed the commission that those seeking a database that shows the survey results may find this information by going to: www.usnews.com/usnews.edu/college/corank.htm.

The data is from the Research in Higher Education, Vol. 39, No 5, 1995, entitled "College Rankings: Democratized College Knowledge for Whom?".

Mr. Harris thanked Ms. Conley for her presentation.

B. Mr. Harris distributed a memorandum from Mr. Jim Weaver, Director of Athletics, concerning the football ticket distribution. Mr. Weaver states in the memorandum that he plans to schedule a meeting of various representatives of the student body, including presidents of several student organizations as well as representatives from the CSA to discuss policy recommendations for improving the current student ticket distribution system. Mr. Harris stated that he will inform CSA as soon as he gets more information about this.

C. Mr. Jamaa Bickley-King made a motion that an ad hoc committee be formed to look at the membership and the efficiency and equity of CSA. Those who volunteered to serve on this committee are Sean Blackburn, Jody Olson, Jamaa Bickley-King, Ed Spencer, Roxene Thompson, Jennifer Gittes. Dr. Lanny Cross also recommended that Barbara Pendergrass be asked to serve.

After discussion, the motion made by Mr. Bickley-King was seconded and approved unanimously. The committee will report back to commission at the November 19 meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Mr. Jody Olson reported that because the resolution concerning Tech Central is not a policy, it will not be sent to University Council. Mr. Olson will present the resolution to the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Visitors on Monday. He asked that anyone who wishes to discuss this with him to see him after the meeting today.

V. Announcements

A. Ms. Nicki Cantrell distributed a memorandum to presidents of University Student Life Programs and University Chartered Student Organizations concerning the Student Budget Board's 1999-2000 annual funding cycle. She
asked that commission note the deadline for submission of requests is 5:00 p.m. on January 25.

B. Mr. Harris announced that a representative from Parking Services will attend the November 19 meeting to discuss the Parking Services survey, and that Dr. Delores Scott will make a presentation on academic advising at the December 3 meeting.

C. Ms. Madonna Mendoza announced that this week is Asian/American Week, and that Saturday there is an event entitled, "Cultural Essence of the East" at which five countries will be represented. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and admission is free.

D. Ms. Roxene Thompson stated that she would like to thank the Order of the Gavel for meeting with her and Mr. Andrew Bishop to discuss issues their constituents are looking at and to reaffirm and confirm the issues they will be bringing before the Board of Visitors.

VI. Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Eaton
Recording Secretary