MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
219 Squires Student Center
November 6, 1997
3:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. Jenne Ginther, Mr. Ryan Ford (for Mr. Adam Boitnott), Ms. Kelli Campbell, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Jennifer Jordan (for Ms. Lauren Esleeck), Ms. Tekisha Everette, Ms. Judy Fielder, Mr. Markus Grafe, Ms. Erin Graham, Dr. Louis Gwin, Mr. Michael Herndon, Ms. Gerri Johns, Dr. Martha Johnson, Ms. Krista Johnston, Mr. Anurag Maheshwary, Ms. Michelle Lee (for Ms. Arlene Merino), Mr. Steve Schneider, Ms. Amelia Clark (for Dr. Delores Scott), Dr. Edward Spencer, Dr. Andy Swiger, Ms. Jean Marie Whichard, Ms. Sarah Wikstrom

Absent: Ms. Susan Anderson, Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Dr. Cathy Goree, Mr. Rajiv Khosla, Dr. Johann Norstedt, Mr. James J. Von St. Paul, Brian Warren, Mr. Brian Wiersema

Guests: Mr. Dan Sheehan, Mr. Jamaa Bickley-King, Ms. Clarresa Morton

1. Call to Order. Ms. Ginther called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda. Ms. Ginther reported that Item 2, Report from the Task on QCA Eligibility, would be removed from the agenda, and will be added to the agenda for the November 20 meeting. Ms. Ginther also announced that Ms. Kelli Campbell will serve as chair of the task force. One item was added to New Business, Discussion of Guidelines for Events Sponsored by Student Organizations. Motion was made and seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Announcement of Approval of October 16, 1997 CSA Minutes. Ms. Ginther announced that the minutes of the October 16, 1997 meeting had been approved electronically.

4. Unfinished Business.


Mr. Steve Schneider distributed copies of a resolution by the Student Government Association, The Student Organization Verbal Freedom Act, for second reading by the Commission. This resolution would amend University Policy #5205 to allow registered student organizations, with approved membership tables, the right to actively solicit fellow students for purposes of recruitment and non-financial support. Mr. Schneider reported that the SGA had polled other universities to obtain their policies concerning verbal solicitation on their campuses. Those universities were: Syracuse University, Temple University, University of Maryland, George Mason University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Penn State. He reported that all universities contacted allow organizations to call out to students or call out information, except Syracuse University, and all responded that they are allowed to walk out in front of tables and approach students. Dr. Landrum Cross asked if a policy exists which prohibits verbal solicitation at informational booths or tables, and Ms. Clarresa Morton indicated that there is no such policy. Mr. Schneider suggested that the wording of the resolution be changed from "RESOLVED, University
Policy 5205 should be amended as to allow registered student organizations...." to "RESOLVED, University Policy 5205 should be interpreted as to allow registered student organizations..." which would allow student organizations to verbally solicit attention from students passing by informational tables.

A motion was made and seconded to table the resolution for consideration at the next CSA meeting on November 20. Motion was defeated.

After a lengthy discussion, motion was made and seconded to strike the resolution in this form. Motion was passed.

A motion was made that CSA ask the Event Planning Office to have a trial period to allow verbal solicitation at information tables and to provide a report at a CSA meeting in early April. Motion was seconded and passed.

B. Selection of undergraduate student volunteer to Steering Committee for Student Services Database.

Ms. Ginther asked the members for recommendations of persons to be considered for the Student Services Database Steering Committee. Mr. Ryan Ford was selected as the representative.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Policy Memorandum 26, Guidelines for Events Sponsored by Student Organizations, and Policy Memorandum 86, Event Approval.

Mr. Schneider distributed copies of the above mentioned policy memoranda, and asked that the Commission review them as it relates to events that are not approved. Policy Memorandum 86 states that "the Commission on Student Affairs has the right to hear appeals from those student organizations whose events were not approved by the appropriate administrative official." Mr. Schneider asked the Event Planning office to consider adding a statement to the event request form which acknowledges that CSA has the authority to hear appeals. That statement would read, "If you would like to appeal this decision, please contact the Commission on Student Affairs." Ms. Clarresa Morton indicated that this statement would be added to the form.

B. Selection of student representative to serve on Academic Support Committee for 1997-98.

Ms. Ginther asked for a volunteer to represent the Commission on Student Affairs on the Academic Support Committee for 1997-98. Ms. Tekisha Everette was selected as the representative.

6. Announcements.

Mr. Schneider reported that there will be a public hearing on November 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Transit offices, regarding expanding their service to include Wal-Mart and K-Mart, and possibly the Greyhound bus terminal. Transportation from Squires will be provided for those interested in attending.

Dr. Cross reminded the students on CSA about the breakfast with the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors, Monday, November 10, 7:30 a.m.
7. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Eaton
Recording Secretary