MINUTES
COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
October 10, 2002
Room 219
Squires Student Center
3:30-5:30 p.m.


ABSENT: Kim Beisecker, Nicki Cantrell, Matt Lehman

GUESTS: Amy McNerney

I. Call to Order

Mr. Brian Montgomery, Chair, called the meeting to order.

II. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

III. Minutes from September 26th meeting

Mr. Montgomery announced that the minutes of the September 26 CSA meeting have been electronically approved and will be sent to University Council for approval. Mr. Montgomery provided an update on the Resolution amending the University Council Constitution to Establish a Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity, which CSA reviewed and discussed in the spring. First reading took place at the October 7 University Council meeting, and second reading will take place at the next meeting. Mr. Montgomery plans to discuss the resolution at the October 24 CSA meeting and will send copies to CSA members for their information.

IV. Old Business

a.) Review of Orientation Brainstorming

1. Issue Matrix

   Mr. Montgomery distributed the list of issues that were discussed at the September 26 meeting and asked the group to rank the issues in order of preference. He will review the issues and form subcommittees.

2. Subcommittees
Subcommittees will be announced at an upcoming meeting.

V. New Business

a) Residential and Dining Programs & Residence Hall Federation:
Smoking Policy Resolution — First Reading
Mr. Vivek Mehta, President of the Residence Hall Federation, presented the RDP and RHF Smoking Policy Resolution for first reading. If passed, the resolution would change the residence halls to totally smoke-free facilities, just as the other buildings on campus, effective next academic year. The one exception would be for designated smoking rooms in the lodging rooms of Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Mr. Mehta discussed the reasons for requesting the policy change. The reasons include: 1) an on-line survey of on-campus residents found that nearly 70 percent of respondents believed that students should not be permitted to smoke in residence hall rooms; 2) the Health Promotion Task Force of Schiffert Health Center recommended that residence halls be totally smoke free and provided a petition signed by 527 students in three days supporting this recommendation; 3) the construction of most residence halls and the nature of the heating and cooling systems makes it impossible to contain smoke to a given room; and 4) there is a continuing trend around the country to change residence halls to smoke-free buildings.

Dr. Cross pointed out that the resolution will need approval by University Council and the Board of Visitors since the policy would be a change to the University Policies for Student Life.

Mr. Mehta and Mr. Gerry Kowalski, Director of Residence Education for RDP, answered questions about how students would be sanctioned for failure to follow the policy.

Mr. Mehta will send the resolution to CSA by e-mail. Mr. Montgomery asked that student members share the resolution with their student organizations prior to second reading on October 24.

b) Panhellenic Council: Constitutional Changes First Reading

Ms. Angela Wilson distributed revised copies of the Panhellenic Association Constitution for first reading. They have made only minor changes, mainly in regard to names of officers and wording for the articles related to quorum. Mr. Montgomery announced that second reading will take place at the October 24 meeting.

c) LGBTA Constitutional Changes First Reading

Mr. Jeremy Andrews distributed revised copies of the LGBTA Constitution for first reading and discussed the changes. They have made major changes to the constitution because their old one was outdated. Changes include: eliminating membership fees, changing the governance structure by redefining officer responsibilities, redefining who would be a voting member, adding flexibility on meeting times, and eliminating quorum. Mr. Montgomery announced that second reading will take place at the October 24 meeting.
VI. Announcements

Mr. Andrew Jayne announced that SGA would sponsor the “Cut This?” protest scheduled for October 11, 3:00 p.m., on the Drillfield. This was a protest of the governor’s budget cuts and all were encouraged to participate. A photo was taken and sent to the governor.

Mr. Pankaj Gupta announced that Cranwell International Center and the Council of International Student Organizations would celebrate Parents Day by hosting an International Lunch at 11:30 a.m. on October 12 at Cranwell.

Ms. Amy McNerney, representative from the *Collegiate Times*, announced that the *CT* would like to hear from student leaders about what their organizations are doing. She distributed a guide for submitting a story for publication.

Mr. Vivek Mehta announced that the Residence Hall Federation was sponsoring Casino Night on Parents Day, October 12, at 8:00 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballroom of Squires.

Ms. Strysan Murrell announced that Carl Vashear will speak at 8:00 p.m. on November 7 in Burruss Auditorium. The movie “Men of Honor” is based on Mr. Vashears’s life.

Mr. Vashonta Roach announced that the movie “xXx” will be showing at 6:30 p.m. on November 4 in Colonial Hall, Squires. The Paid in Full Tour concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on November 8 in Burruss Auditorium. Tickets are $12 for students, $18 for non students.

Mr. Jeremy Andrews announced that LGBTa was sponsoring Coming Out Day on October 11, with an information tent on the Drillfield. On October 16, Reverend Irene Monroe will speak on religion and gay rights at 7:00 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center, Squires. On October 17 the co-founder of the Blacksburg PFLAG will speak at the LGBTa general body meeting. On November 11, the movie “Two Girls in Love” will be showing on campus. The “The Laramie Project” play, about the death of Matthew Shepard, will be held in Squires Studio Theatre at 8:00 p.m. beginning October 17, with the last performance on November 2. Auditions for Angels in America are also being held.

Ms. Brooke Randa announced that Virginia Tech Union was bringing the play, “The Scarlet Pimpernel” to Burruss Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on October 15.

Mr. Brant Snyder announced that the Student Government Association is recruiting for house representatives and student organizations are invited to attend. The next meeting was scheduled for October 15 at 5:30 p.m., 152-154 Squires.

Mr. Brian Montgomery announced that Governor Warner would announce the state budget cuts on October 15. He also announced a breakfast with the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors on November 11 at 7:30 a.m. in the Appalachian/Blue Ridge Room of DBHCC. He encouraged the student leaders to attend. Mr. Montgomery reminded the commission to turn in their issues matrix by the end of the meeting.

Mr. Christian Rieser announced that they still need a CSA representative for the health issues subcommittee.
VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary