Minutes

Present: Allan Bradley, Tom Brown, Myrna Callison, Michael Sutphin for Trey Church, Cristin Coles, Lanny Cross, Ginny Fowler, Monika Gibson, Pankaj Gupta, Erin Hawkinson, Ben Kearney, Ellen Krupar, Elaine Kwan, Matthew Lieber, Kasey Martin, Vivek Mehta, Kim Mitchell, Clarresa Morton, Jerry Niles, Nicole Reynolds, Rachel Rizk, Judy Sarver for Roberta Snelling, Brant Snyder, Jane Warner, Chris Wise, Will Wright

Absent: Caryl Gray, Aki Izutani, Vishal Nakra, Brooke Randa, Keniah Robinson

I. Call to Order

Mr. Vivek Mehta, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Mehta asked that an addition be made to the agenda under New Business, (D) Major Entertainment Sponsorship. The amended agenda was adopted.

III. Minutes from October 2 Meeting

Mr. Mehta announced that the minutes of the October 2 CSA meeting have been electronically approved and sent to University Council.

IV. Old Business

A. GSA Constitution ChangesÑSecond Reading

Ms. Kasey Martin presented the GSA Constitution Changes for second reading and outlined the changes that were made as a result of the first reading on October 2. Mr. Mehta opened the floor for questions and discussion. Being none, there was a motion to approve the GSA Constitution. The motion was seconded and approved.

V. New Business

A. Discussion of Parking Issues - Ben Kearney

Mr. Kearney opened a discussion of parking issues by distributing a list of concerns related to: vehicles driving on sidewalks; parking tickets; parking for residents and commuters; a parking garage; Blacksburg Transit routes; and Parking Services revenue. Mr. Mehta opened the floor for discussion. Additional
concerns brought up during the discussion are: why must tickets be paid before they are appealed; can parking times for graduate students be extended; why are faculty and staff allowed to park in student lots without being ticketed; are there lots on campus where more tickets are written; are other groups on campus ticketed as quickly as students. Mr. Kearney will forward the list of concerns to Mr. Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation, and Mr. Richard McCoy, Parking Manager, who will attend the November 6 meeting to address these concerns.

B. Discussion of Student Services

Ed Spencer

Dr. Ed Spencer, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, thanked the commission for inviting him to speak on student services. He suggested the commission also invite Mr. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Budget and Financial Management, or Mr. Minnis Ridenour, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, for a more in-depth discussion of tuition and fees. Dr. Spencer explained how student fees are used for operating funds in various departments on campus, and the services provided by this funding. He explained that even though students have been charged higher tuition and fees this year, the higher rate still has not covered all the money lost in the state budget cuts. As a result, departments have been forced to cut budgets and consequently cut the services they are able to offer.

Dr. Spencer distributed handouts comparing Virginia Tech to our peer institutions in Virginia and the nation. Virginia Tech has the second highest tuition rate in the state compared to other four-year institutions. However, we have the lowest total rate in the state when tuition, fees, and room/board are compared. When compared to 19 public four-year institutions in the nation, Virginia Tech ranks 16th in terms of tuition, fees, and room/board.

Dr. Jerry Niles, Dean of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and Dr. Lanny Cross, Vice President for Student Affairs, briefly discussed how the university relies on strategic planning for allocation of budgets.

Dr. Spencer stressed that the administration is interested in hearing the student opinions on these matters. He encouraged students to work with their student organizations this semester in getting their opinions voiced to the administration, before budget decisions are made in the spring. Mr. Mehta indicated he will invite Mr. Shelton and Mr. Ridenour to speak to CSA this semester.

C. Board of Visitors Information Session

Myrna Callison and Allan Bradley

Mr. Allan Bradley and Ms. Myrna Callison, Undergraduate and Graduate Representatives to the Board of Visitors, discussed the upcoming BOV Information Session on Comprehensive Review of Race-Conscious Programs. The Information Session will be held on November 10 at 3:00 p.m. in Owens Banquet Hall. The focus of the session will be narrow tailoring of race-conscious programs. Last spring the university asked all departments to review their programs for race-conscious aspects. Dr. McNamee will provide an update of this review at the November 10 session. For the future, the university will continue to monitor all programs to ensure legal compliance. The university will also have an increased commitment to improve and support diversity on campus.
Mr. Bradley and Ms. Callison stressed the importance of student feedback and input at the Information Session. They asked the student leaders to discuss this issue with their groups and e-mail the groups’ questions to them at abradley@vt.edu or mcalliso@vt.edu. They will also discuss the questions at the next CSA meeting on November 6. They encouraged the students to attend the Board of Visitors open sessions on November 2 and 3 as well.

D. Major Entertainment Sponsorship

Mr. Mehta distributed copies of Policy 8215, Major Entertainment Sponsorship, which states that in 1977 CSA granted Virginia Tech Union the exclusive privilege to sponsor all major entertainment events on the Virginia Tech campus. Mr. Erik Kneubuehl, Director of Campus Programs, UUSA, will attend the next meeting to discuss proposed changes to the policy.

VI. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.