MINUTES
COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
October 18, 2001
Room 219
Squires Student Center
3:30-5:30 p.m.


Absent: Susan Anderson, Ed Boone, Christina Coukos, Chris DeMay, James Disney, Kimberlee Fulcher, Grant Hill, Kasey Martin, Erin Miller, Vashonta Roach, Justin Wienckowski

Guests: Mark McNamee

I. Call to Order
Mr. Ryan Hartman, Chair, called the meeting to order.

II. Adoption of Agenda
The agenda was adopted as written.

III. Guest Presentation
Dr. Mark McNamee, the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, asked the commission members to introduce themselves. He spoke briefly about what he has been doing in the two months since he arrived here. He has been learning all aspects of how the university functions, while at the same time moving the university forward in implementing its strategic plan. He has been impressed with the efforts Virginia Tech has made related to student learning. The university has accomplished this in many different ways: by providing a very good living and dining environment for the students; by investing in the faculty to help them be better teachers; by embracing new technologies and making them available to students in their classes; and by investing in undergraduate and graduate education. From his perspective, it seems that Virginia Tech is doing many things very well and there is great interest to make things even better. Even so, the university faces many challenges: it’s a very large university, so it’s hard for everyone to know each other; the students are dealing with large classes and complex requirements; we have insufficient funding from the state to do everything the university would like to do; and the faculty and students are being challenged to reach the goal of a Top 30 university. Dr. McNamee is committed to making sure the investments we have made in graduate and undergraduate education do not suffer as we face these challenges. Additional funding from state, federal, and private sources will help reach our goals, but we will also be focusing on research activities that give us access to other sources of funding. He feels we should encourage all students to participate in the research aspects of the university and to seek out opportunities to be involved in creative research and scholarship activities. He encouraged the commission to look at ways to get students involved in research projects. He also plans to strengthen graduate education. To be a Top 30 university, Virginia Tech must have high
profile, successful, well funded graduate programs that attract outstanding students and faculty members. In the effort to build the university, he sees the students as partners with the faculty and feels the students will benefit the most because they will receive a better education. Dr. McNamee then held a brief question and answer period for the commission.

IV. Old Business
A. Committee Reports — CSA Issue Committees

Capital Requests: Mr. Hartman reported that he has invited Dr. Ray Smoot to speak to the commission on November 20 concerning capital requests.

Football Ticket: Mr. Hartman sent a letter to Mr. Sandy Smith and Mr. Jim Weaver of the Athletic Department, reminding them of the commission’s recommendation from last year concerning football ticket distribution. He expects to hear back from them in the near future.

Child Care: Mr. Hartman met with Ms. Cathy Jacobs who heads the Office of Family Services at Virginia Tech. The office mainly serves faculty and staff, but will offer assistance to students as well. They operate a resource and referral service for childcare providers in the Blacksburg area. Ms. Jacobs said they are aware that Virginia Tech has insufficient childcare compared to our peer institutions, and she has written a report on this subject. Mr. Hartman will review the report and discuss it with the commission at the next meeting. The family services office also has a task force working on childcare at Virginia Tech and they would be interested in getting the commission’s feedback on their findings.

Driving/Parking on Campus Sidewalks: Mr. Hartman reported that Parking Services is in the final stages of implementing a vendor/business contract of their parking improvement plan. According to Mr. Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation, this will result in closer management of where these types of vehicles can park on campus sidewalks. Mr. Hartman has requested a copy of the improvement plan after it is reviewed and approved.

V. New Business
A. Academic Support Committee Appointment — Ryan Hartman
Mr. Hartman announced that the commission needs to have a representative on the Academic Support Committee. Since a committee meeting was held before we could make the appointment, Mr. Hartman attended for the commission. He discussed the purpose of the committee: to approve academic calendars for future years. They are currently developing the calendars for 2004-2008. There has been discussion of adding a one-day fall break and a two-day reading day for spring semester. There will be one additional Academic Support Committee meeting this semester, and Mr. Hartman asked that anyone wishing to attend in his place to contact him.

B. Resolution 2001-2002A: Programming on International Issues & Education—First Reading
Ms. Kim Mitchell and Ms. Aysen Tulpar, as members of the Focus on Country Committee, discussed the changes they plan to make to the university’s previous
Focus on Country program. The previous program was focused more on educating faculty rather than students, and they want to expand the program to encourage student participation as well. Ms. Mitchell presented the resolution for first reading and opened the floor for questions. Following a discussion on how far they hope to take the resolution in the university governance structure and whether they will ask for a graduate assistant or a wage position to run the program, the resolution was tabled until a future meeting so that amendments could be made which would clarify these matters. The committee was asked to send the amended resolution to Mr. Hartman, and he will forward it to the commission for comments.

C. Resolution 2001-2002B: Extended Campus Student Organizations - Revision of Policy 8000 and 8010, Creation of Policy 8014--First Reading

Mr. Ryan Hartman distributed the resolution for first reading and discussed the proposed changes. The primary change is to add Extended Campus Student Organizations to the existing policy concerning student organizations. The resolution calls for student organizations on extended campuses to have the same opportunities as on-campus organizations, except they would not be able to apply for funding because off-campus students do not pay student fees. Mr. Gunnar Lucko explained that the resolution was written as a result of meetings with students from extended campuses that expressed interest in starting student organizations on their campuses. Mr. Hartman then opened the floor for questions and comments. Dr. Lanny Cross said that the extended campus directors should be consulted about this matter because the activities will be taking place at their facilities, and the registration form should include approval by the campus director. Dr. Dave Ostroth suggested that the registration process take place at the campuses where they are located, with a broader database for the entire university also showing them as registered. Ms. Kim Mitchell said the resolution should clarify that no funding will be available since they don’t pay student fees. The resolution was tabled until the November 1 commission meeting so these changes could be made.

VI. Announcements
Mr. Hartman made an announcement for Ms. Sue Ellen Crocker: The Careers in Sports Panel will be taking place on October 25, 7:30-9:00 a.m. in the DBHCC Auditorium.

VII. Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary