Minutes

Commission on Student Affairs

October 20, 1994,
Brush Mountain Room

Present: Dr. Jim McKenna, Dr. Tom Goodale, Dr. Martha Johnson (for Dr. John Eaton), Mr. Seth Ginther, Mr. Shiloh Bates, Ms. Shannon Milliken, Mr. Rutherfoord Watkins, Mr. Henry Hsu, Mr. John Kruep, Ms. Girlie N. Nallas, Ms. Maureen Bezold, Mr. Jon Griese, Ms. Gerri Johns, Ms. Marcey McCammon, Ms. Cathy Buttmer, Mr. John Aughenbaugh, Ms. Margarita Correa-O, Dr. Cornel Morton, Dr. David Ostroth, Dean Andy Swiger, Professor Robert Graham, and Mr. Brian Sayre.

Absent: Dr. John Eaton, Ms. Erin Smith, Professor Hugh Munson, and Ms. Judy Davis.

Guests: Ms. Courtney Beamon, Dr. Julie Sina, Mr. Bill Campion, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Ms. Jenifer Bianchi, Mr. Robert Johnson, Mr. Nathan Brown, Mr. Stuart Mease, Mr. Kevin LeClaire, Ms. Amy Broughton, Dean Lucinda Roy, Mr. Eric Burnett, Mr. Tim Reed, Ms. Kay Heidbreder, Ms. Kathy Haden, and Dr. Barbara Pendergrass.

Call to Order

Dr. Jim McKenna, chairperson of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and asked for all guests to introduce themselves to the Commission and state who they were representing.

Announcements

Dr. Goodale distributed to members of the Commission the agenda for the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors to be held on November 14, 1994.

Dr. Goodale announced that there would be an alcohol conference on October 27, 1994 at 2:00 p.m. in the Brush Mountain Room. He indicated that the conference is an open meeting. He also noted that there would be a national teleconference entitled "Look Who's Coming to College" on October 26, at 1:30 p.m. at the CEC.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Aughenbaugh made a motion to approve the October 6, 1994 CSA minutes. Mr. Ginther seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as recorded.

Comments from Dr. Alan McDaniel
Dr. McDaniel distributed a copy of a revised draft of a Committee on Academic Support Resolution to be presented to the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies. He noted that this resolution had been submitted for first reading and would be re-submitted for the second reading within a month. The resolution calls for a compilation of a list of dates for religious and ethnic holidays to be distributed to the university community through various media. He commented that the purpose of the list shall be for raising sensitivity to potential conflicts between religious and academic expectations while educating the university community about its cultural diversity.

Dr. McDaniel requested feedback from the Commission. He stated that if they had any dates that they wanted included in this list or any comments to please forward them to him by his PROFS id "HORTARM".

Mr. Aughenbaugh stated that he and Mr. Ginther were the two student representatives for the Committee on Academic Support and they had not received any notifications of meetings. Dr. McDaniel commented that he was not aware of who the representatives were and he would be glad to forward to them notifications of meeting dates.

Unfinished Business

Resolution of the two pending issues in the Revised Budget Board Policies and Procedures (Section IV.B.2 open meetings and Section VI.2 closed membership) Dr. Goodale deferred this item to Mr. Reed who introduced Ms. Kay Heidbreder from the General Counsel's office.

Ms. Heidbreder noted that the problem with the terms "open meetings" and "closed membership" as they currently are used in the Revised Budget Board policies is the lack of specificity in their definitions. Ms. Crowder, who served as secretary to the Budget Board Task Force, indicated that the task force had established criteria for defining open meetings and closed membership and that perhaps these criteria should be a part of the document. She explained that the task force defined organizations with closed membership as those which did not have clear quantitative membership criteria.

After a lengthy discussion, Dr. McKenna closed debate on this issue and called for a motion.

Professor Graham motioned to incorporate the criteria for closed membership and open meetings developed by the Budget Board Task Force into the document as modified by Dr. Ostroth. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion.

The language should read as follows. Under specific criteria section B #1 and #2. Strike the last sentence in each section and replace with:

Applications for organizational membership must be open to the entire student body. If selective membership is practiced, membership criteria must be objective, quantifiable and publicized.

Under Eligibility in section VI, #2, replace the entire section with:

Applications for organizational membership must be open to the entire student body. If selective membership is practiced, membership criteria must be objective, quantifiable and publicized. Additionally,
umbrella organizations comprised entirely of organizations whose membership is closed will not be funded.

A motion was made and seconded to table this item until the next CSA meeting.

The vote on the motion to table the item was 10 positive votes and 9 negative votes.

Dr. McKenna asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to write new wording for "closed membership" and "open meetings". Volunteers were Seth Ginther, Rutherford Watkins, Erin Smith, Henry Hsu, Marcey McCammon, Shannon Milliken, John Kruep, and Gerri Johns. Mr. Watkins will chair the committee.

First Reading of the Revised Resolution on Faculty Evaluations and Resolution on Beginning of Academic Year

Dr. McKenna stated that due to time constraints the two resolutions under item 2 and 3 of Unfinished Business were being presented today for first reading only and would be on the agenda for the November 3 meeting for second reading.

New Business

Dr. McKenna changed the order of the items under New Business to begin with item 4, Service Learning and then item 5, Financial Aid and Delivery since there were guests who had other obligations after this meeting.

Service Learning

Dr. Morton and Dean Roy gave a brief overview of Service Learning at Virginia Tech. They stated that service learning is a highly effective way of bringing students and the larger community together. In their model, students would be able to take up to eighteen hours of service-learning courses for credit.

Dean Roy noted that communities of Southwest Virginia and Roanoke would be affected as Tech would provide their community agencies with trained volunteers. Also corporations would be affected as they work in collaboration with the Service Learning Advisory Board. The Advisory Board met this past summer and were involved in a grant writing workshop designed to help them apply for external grants to fund the projects. A search is underway for a director and an executive secretary for this project.

Financial Aid and Delivery

Dr. Julie Sina, Director of Financial Aid, gave a presentation on the Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid. Dr. Sina presented overheads of statistics of the 1993-94 academic year. She noted that 39,059 financial aid applications had been processed in 1993-94 and that approximately 100 million dollars in aid had been awarded. She also stated that currently approximately 16,000 students receive some form of financial aid assistance.

Dr. Sina noted that there were 11 full time counselors, five staff in data processing, six support staff, and 16 work study students in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. She stated that she would have a handout of the statistics she presented at the next CSA meeting.
Revocation of the Resolution on Class Attendance

Mr. Ginther made a motion to revoke the class attendance resolution. The motion was seconded and it was approved; there was one negative vote.

Report from Task Force on Administrative Systems

Mr. Aughenbaugh stated that there was no report at the present time and no report would be placed on the agenda in the near term.

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Dr. Goodale requested that this item be tabled until the next CSA meeting.

New Policy on Distribution of Athletic Tickets

Mr. Ginther stated that he had met with Dave Braine the athletic director and that a policy is being written that will be in place by the Fall 1995 season whereby students will not have to bring their athletic card to get into games. The id card will be scanned for entry.

Review of the Honor System's Recommendation on Tech Notes

Eric Burnette, Chief Justice of the Honor System, presented concerns about Tech Notes and the Honor Code to members of the Commission. He noted that the Honor system Review Board took the position that the use of these notes is in the same range of behavior as the use of old exams or koofers. If a professor makes it clear that the use of purchased notes is prohibited in the class then a student who is found using such notes could be charged with cheating. If the use of such notes is explicitly banned by an instructor for a class, then attempts to sell such notes would also be cheating. If a professor welcomes notes as a supplement to student learning, then no Honor system violation would be charged.