MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
219 Squires Student Center
October 2, 1997
3:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. Jenne Ginther, Mr. Adam Boitnott, Ms. Kelli Campbell, Ms. Melinda Crowder, Ms. Lauren Esleeck, Ms. Tekisha Everette, Mr. Chris Fannin, Dr. Cathy Goree, Ms. Erin Graham, Dr. Louis Gwin, Mr. Michael Herndon, Ms. Gerri Johns, Dr. Martha Johnson, Mr. Anurag Maheshwary, Ms. Arlene Merino, Dr. Johann Norstedt, Ms. Tara Berescik (for Mr. Steve Schneider), Dr. Edward Spencer, Ms. Jean Marie Whichard, Mr. Brian Wiersema, Ms. Sarah Wikstrom

Absent: Ms. Susan Anderson, Mr. Are Andresen, Mr. Raphael Castillejo, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Krista Johnston, Mr. Rajiv Khosla, Dr. Delores Scott, Dr. Andy Swiger, Mr. James J. Von St. Paul, Dr. Brian Warren

Guests: Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Mr. Jason Easter, Mr. Curtis Lynch

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

2. Approval of Agenda. Ms. Ginther added one item to the agenda under New Business -- discussion regarding security at events. Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Announcement of Approval of September 18, 1997 Minutes. Ms. Ginther announced that the minutes of the September 18, 1997 minutes had been approved electronically.

4. Unfinished Business.

A. Fan Behavior at Football Games. Dr. Cathy Goree reported that the first game of the year is usually a difficult one as far as judicial referrals are concerned. Last year we had about 50 judicial referrals and 100 interactions with police, including non-students. This year, there were 23 judicial referrals. At the second game, there were five judicial referrals, only four of which were alcohol related, and one for someone smoking in the stadium. Dr. Goree report this is the first time in twenty-eight years that the police have made no arrests at a football game.

5. New Business

A. Presentation regarding Parking Services. Mr. Curtis Lynch, director of Parking Services, reported that one of the items he wanted to discuss concerned money generated from parking tickets. This amount varies from year to year, and is usually somewhere between $400,000 to $600-700,000.00. He reported that they had just completed a phase of developing more parking areas. In the past three years, they have paved and renovated the Commuter B parking lot, which created an additional 200 parking spaces. The student parking lot behind Litton-Reaves was increased from approximately 600 parking spaces to almost 1,000. This past year, another commuter student parking lot was created off Turner Street which has approximately 80 parking spaces. Mr. Lynch reported that no new parking lots are being planned in the future. The parking garage is still in the talking/planning stages. He reported that parking fees would probably have
to quadruple to support a parking garage. There are still outlying parking spaces that are vacant, which need to be filled up before the University will seriously consider a parking garage.

Mr. Boitnott asked how our parking fees compare with other institutions. Mr. Lynch responded that they are probably the lowest in the state, and rank among the lowest in the nation.

Ms. Ginther asked about revenue from parking tickets. Mr. Lynch responded that in the 1988-89 fiscal year, the General Assembly passed an appropriations act, which stated that any money gathered from parking tickets has to go back into projects that deal with parking, such as restructuring parking lots, signs, painting, and expanding parking lots.

Ms. Graham asked if Parking Services is allotted a budget from the University. Mr. Lynch responded that they do have a budget, but it is not out of general fund money, but from money they generate. The State Council of Higher Education of Virginia requires a certain amount of money to remain in the account, which is based on such things as the debt service and other expenses which must be paid each year.

Mr. Fannin asked if there are any plans regarding car pooling. Mr. Lynch responded that he is working with a graduate student and the Research Office on a program to conduct a survey about car pooling. Also, they instituted the HOV parking lot last year, but there was a funding problem, and they had no way of measuring whether or not the HOV lot was effective. They will be getting feedback on this matter from the Research Office and the graduate student working on the program.

Dr. Goree asked what is the ratio between the number of parking permits issued and the number of spaces available. Mr. Lynch responded that the ratio is almost one to one. With commuters, it is about 2.5 to 1, or 2.5 permits sold for every one parking space. However, the calculations show that commuter spaces turn over 2.5-3.5 times per day, so this still comes out to a one to one ratio.

Ms. Berescik asked if there will be more parking spaces made available if there is an increase in enrollment. Mr. Lynch responded that the University would like to see spaces filled up completely before new spaces are added. Ms. Ginther asked if this means that every faculty, student, and staff parking space needs to be filled to capacity before the University will consider adding more spaces. Mr. Lynch responded that on any given day, there will be a few spaces in each parking lot, but there are also parking lots with plenty of spaces. One such lot is the stadium lot which has a total of 842 parking spaces and only half are being used.

Mr. Maheshwary asked if there are plans to increase fines for parking violations. Mr. Lynch responded that this has been done recently, and there are no plans in the future. He added that increases are driven by expenses and revenue.

2. QCA Eligibility Policy.

Ms. Ginther reported that there is not an overall rule that all student leaders must have a 2.0 QCA, and that she had received a request to investigate whether this might be a problem with students serving in leadership roles.
Ms. Nicki Cantrell, associate director of Student Activities, reported that as far as being qualified to hold office, there are only 21 organizations whose presidents' QCAs are checked and verified before and after elections.

Ms. Ginther appointed the following CSA members to serve on a task force to study this matter -- Gerri Johns, chair; Kellie Campbell, co-chair; Brian Wiersema, Melinda Crowder, and Tekisha Everette. The task force will submit their report to CSA at their November 6, 1997 meeting.

C. Security at Events. Ms. Ginther reported that Dr. David Ostroth, assistant vice president for student affairs, and director of University Unions and Student Activities, is chairing a committee to research security on campus, and has asked that a representative from CSA serve on the committee. The members who responded they would like to serve on the committee were: Arlene Merino, Lauren Esleeck, and Gerri Johns. By secret written ballot, Ms. Johns was chosen to serve on the committee. There was one abstention.

6. Announcements.

Ms. Ginther distributed the Student Budget Board minutes of September 24, which will be voted upon at the October 16, 1997 CSA meeting.

7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Eaton
Recording Secretary