MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
Room 219 Squires Student Center
September 16, 1999
3:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Sean Blackburn, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Laura Bayless, Dr. Lanny Cross, Ms. Kimberly DeGuise, Ms. Lara Digan, Ms. Jovette Gadson, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Mr. Aaron Hill, Ms. Elaine Humphrey, Mr. Ken Keane, Ms. Marquea King, Mr. Drew Lichtenberger, Mr. Steven Lui, Mr. Aaron McClung, Mr. Chittiappa Muthanna, Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, Mr. Brad Ramsey, Dr. Jennie Reilly, Dr. Edd Sewell, Dr. Ed Spencer, Mr. Jeff Sutton, Ms. Alyssa Williams

Absent: Dr. Robert Bates, Ms. Erica Burroughs, Ms. Rachal Emery, Ms. C. J. Griffin, Dr. Martha Johnson, Mr. Darin Oduyoye, Dr. Brian Warren

Guests: Ms. Debby Barbour, Mr. Deepak Deshpande, Mr. Curtis Lynch, Ms. Ashley Marshall

I. Call to Order

A. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Blackburn announced that the September 2, 1999, minutes were approved electronically, and forwarded to University Council for approval at the September 20 meeting. Ms. Sanzenbach will send a final version to commission members.

Mr. Blackburn said that in order to assist future speakers please e-mail any potential questions to him, and he will forward the questions to the speakers before the meetings.

Mr. Blackburn announced that the meetings will continue to be held in Room 219 Squires since no one asked that the location be changed.

II. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Susan Anderson requested that the Presidential Search be added as an agenda item. Motion was made and seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Old Business

A. Approval of AASU Constitution-Second Reading - Steven Lui

Mr. Jeff Sutton asked if the AASU allows graduate students to join. Mr. Lui said graduate students are allowed to participate in meetings, but can't be members with voting rights or act as officers because this is an undergraduate organization. Mr. Sutton made a motion to include graduate students in the AASU. Dr. Ed Spencer suggested the document go back to the organization for reconsideration. Mr. Sutton withdrew his motion. Motion was made and seconded to send the constitution back to AASU for further consideration. Motion was approved.

B. Update from Distinguished Speaker Subcommittee - Sean Blackburn
Mr. Blackburn announced that Ms. Abby Patterson wants to meet with the Distinguished Speaker Subcommittee on Sunday, September 19. The subcommittee needs two additional students and a faculty member or administrator. Dr. Barbara Pendergrass volunteered to serve. Anyone else interested in serving should e-mail Ms. Patterson at apatters@vt.edu.

C. Confirmation of Appointment to Academic Support Committee - Laura Bayless

Mr. Blackburn reminded the commission that we need to appoint a representative to the Academic Support Committee. Ms. Laura Bayless served last year and is interested in serving again this year. Ms. Bayless briefed the commission on the function of the committee. They deal with issues such as the Academic Calendar, i.e. should the university have a Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break. Mr. Blackburn made a motion to appoint Ms. Bayless as the CSA representative. Motion was seconded and approved.

IV. New Business

A. Appointment of Student Budget Board Members - Alyssa Williams

Ms. Williams explained that the role of the Student Budget Board is to recommend allocation of student center fees to properly established student organizations for their programs and activities. The Student Budget Board is a standing subcommittee of CSA. Ms. Williams distributed applications for Ms. Ashley Marshall, the undergraduate candidate, and Mr. Deepak Deshpande, the graduate candidate. Ms. Marshall and Mr. Deshpande introduced themselves and said a few words about why they would like to serve on the Student Budget Board. Mr. Blackburn made a motion to approve both candidates. The motion was seconded and approved. The Budget Board is still seeking one more undergraduate member.

B. Parking at Virginia Tech - Curtis Lynch and Debby Barbour

Mr. Lynch and Ms. Barbour discussed several parking issues such as lot changes and improvements, Drillfield enforcement, parking garage, and the football parking fee. They indicated that more building is taking place in the center of campus, therefore parking is being pushed to the perimeters. In the future there will be better shuttle bus service from the outlying parking lots. They are also considering high occupancy vehicle parking lots to encourage people to carpool. They hope to increase Blacksburg Transit and bicycle usage as well.

Mr. Lynch and Ms. Barbour answered the commission's questions regarding handicap access, Drillfield enforcement, parking for faculty and students who are on campus during football games, parking meters, carpool lots, computer matching system for those interested in carpooling, parking fees, and parking fines.

C. Presidential Search - Susan Anderson

Ms. Susan Anderson presented the following resolution:

"The Commission on Student Affairs encourages the Presidential Search Committee and the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to schedule public
opportunities for the Virginia Tech community--students, faculty, and staff--to interact with the candidates who are finalists in the presidential selection process. The CSA further encourages that responses and reactions of all members of the university community, who meet these various candidates, be welcomed and be considered in the process."

The commission discussed the issue of confidentiality, and whether the election process can be changed retroactively. The commission decided to send the resolution forward with the understanding that the Board of Visitors has the final authority in the matter, not the Search Committee. There was a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and approved.

V. Announcements

Dr. Barbara Pendergrass announced the keynote speaker for Hispanic Heritage Month. Richard Rodriguez, author of Days of Obligation: An Argument with my Mexican Father and recipient of the George Foster Peabody Award in 1997, will be speaking at the Multicultural Center on September 22nd at 7:00 p.m. There will be a reception beforehand at 4:00 p.m. in BCC.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary