Commission on Student Affairs

Orientation Meeting

September 16, 2004
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mt. B
Squires Student Center

Minutes

Present: Sumeet Bagai, Tom Brown, Steve Burrell, Myrna Callison, Ricky Castles, Melinda Cep, Amanda Cocco, Lanny Cross, Robyn Daniel, Sujit Ekka, Ginny Fowler, Monika Gibson, Caryl Gray, Ben Kearney, Erik Kneubuehl, Paul Knox, Ellen Krupar, Alvin Manalo, Tarvaris McCoy, Maya Newhagen, Grant Otto, Orien Patterson, Jory Zmuda Ruscio, Jason Shank, Roberta Snelling, Jane Warner, Holly Welsh, Chris Wise

Absent: Muhammad Ahmad Chughtai, Greg Lemmond, Nic Temple

Visitors: Keisha French, Mike Smith

I. Welcome and Introductions – Grant Otto

Mr. Grant Otto, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the group to introduce themselves.

II. Elections

A. Chair

Mr. Otto announced that Ms. Kasey Martin, who was elected chair for 2004-05 at the April 15 meeting, has left the university and will be unable to fill the position of chair. Mr. Otto announced his intention to run for chair and then opened the floor for further nominations. There being no further nominations, there was a motion to close the floor for nominations. The motion was seconded and approved. Mr. Otto discussed his qualifications and thanked the commission for their confidence in him. Mr. Otto was elected chair by acclamation.

B. Vice Chair (pending outcome of chair election)

Mr. Otto opened the floor for nominations for vice chair. There was a motion to nominate Ms. Myrna Callison, who declined the nomination due to time commitments. There was a motion to nominate Mr. Sumeet Bagai, who accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, there was a motion to close the floor for nominations. The motion was seconded and approved. Mr. Bagai discussed his qualifications and answered the commission’s questions about his time commitments. Mr. Bagai was elected vice chair by acclamation.

C. Representative for Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
Mr. Otto announced that CSA’s representative for the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD) would not be able to serve this year due to a schedule conflict at the commission’s meeting times. He asked for volunteers to serve on CEOD. There were no volunteers, but Ms. Myrna Callison agreed to attend the CEOD meetings temporarily until a new representative can be identified. Mr. Otto will ask for volunteers again at the October 7 CSA meeting.

III. Orientation to CSA – Lanny Cross

Dr. Lanny Cross briefly discussed the university governance structure and how CSA fits into this structure. He also discussed the various ways of sending legislation through the university governance system. He then opened the floor for questions. Ms. Myrna Callison asked who is responsible for sending approved resolutions to the next level for action. Dr. Cross said the resolution itself should indicate who needs to act on the resolution (Parking Services, Univ. Council, etc.). It is then the responsibility of the CSA chair and recording secretary to forward the resolution to the appropriate office, council, or commission who need to respond or take action at their level.

IV. Agenda Topics for 2004-2005 (Brainstorm)

Mr. Otto asked the group to consider agenda topics for this year and opened the floor for discussion of possible topics. Several suggestions were made, and Mr. Otto will compile the list for distribution to the commission.

V. Question and Answer Period.

Mr. Otto opened the floor for a brief question and answer period. He announced that meetings will have to end promptly at 5:00 p.m. this semester because another group has the meeting room reserved at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Jason Shank asked if business must be resolved at the end of spring semester or can it carry over to fall semester? Mr. Otto indicated that items can carry over. In fact, Resolution 2003-2004I–Resolution Requesting Department Heads to Provide Mid-Semester Instructor Evaluations, a resolution from spring semester, will be reintroduced at the October 7 meeting.

Mr. Otto asked the commission to e-mail him at gotto@vt.edu if they were interested in serving on sub-committees for the agenda topics.

VI. Announcements

Ms. Myrna Callison announced that Graduate and Professional School Day would be held on September 28, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 a.m. in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires.

Mr. Sumeet Bagai announced that the Kickoff to the ACC Concert and Pep Rally would be held on September 17, 6:30 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires.

Mr. Jason Shank announced three upcoming VTU films, all to be shown at 8:00 p.m. in Colonial Hall, Squires: September 17-18, Troy; September 24-25, 3rd Harry Potter; October 1-2, Terminal.
Mr. Erik Kneuhuehl announced the third annual leadership conference, Blue Ridge Summit, would be held on September 19, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Squires. Further details are available at www.vtleadership.com.

Mr. Alvin Manalo announced that AASU would be holding a dialogue series beginning September 20, 7:00 p.m. in Black Cultural Center, Squires. The series will occur every two weeks until the end of the semester.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary