

Commission on Student Affairs
February 4, 2010
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Brush Mountain Room
Squires Student Center

Present: Kimberly Brown, Tom Brown, Brandon Carroll, Kimberly Carlson, Matthew Hughes for Kristin Carr, Liana Farb, Laura Freeman, Jonathan Duggins for Rebecca French, Meg Gough, Monika Gibson, Kristina Hartman, Frank Hernandez, Monica Hunter, Monique Johnson, Aimee Kanode, Nathan Lavinka, Marco Leung, Anna LoMascolo, Shane McCarty, Michelle McLeese, Thomas Medina, Robert Sebak, Sharmin Shamsalsadati, Frank Shushok, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Lauren Thompson, Ben Wade

Absent: Ashley Davis, Rick Ferraro, Brian Golden, Shivana Handa, Brad Klein, Mary Ann Lewis, Matt Penny, Donna Ratcliffe, John Steger, Leighton Vila, Nigel Wray

Guests: Ellie Spitzer, Sara Brickman

I. Call to Order

Ms. McLeese, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

II.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made to adopt the agenda as amended to delete the first presentation. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Welcome and Chair Update(s)

Ms. McLeese welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the semester and reminded them that if they have agenda items for future meetings, to contact her.

She gave a brief review of the Diversity Summit, along with Dr. Sims, that was held on January 29 which focused on Asian ethnicity, background, culture, stereotypes, etc. She also reported that University Council heard the first reading of the Ammunition Ban and the Interim Suspension resolutions that passed through CSA last semester. She invited CSA members to attend the next University Council meeting as non-voting members on February 15 if they wish to represent their constituents regarding these two resolutions.

After reviewing the responsibilities of the CSA Vice Chair position, Ms. McLeese called for nominations and the election of a new Vice Chair of CSA to replace Camille Waldron. Mr. Shane McCarty was nominated and accepted the nomination. Dr. Spencer moved that the nominations be closed, the motion was carried, and Mr. McCartney was elected by acclamation as the Vice Chair of CSA.

Guest Speakers

- A. **Dr. Mary Ann Lewis, Director of First Year Experience** – First Year Experience Program – This presentation will be made at the next CSA meeting.
- B. **Marco Leung, VP Class of 2012 and SGA Student Outreach Co-Director, Ellie Spitzer, SGA Student Outreach Co-Director - SGA Extreme Campus Makeover.**

Ms. Leung and Ms. Spitzer explained that the task is to find out how students feel about different issues to gather the campus as students perceive it. On October 19 – 21, they did a survey at four different locations: Shultz, Pamplin on the Drillfield, & the Library. Participation was about 5,000 students per day and this was the first time it was extended to the Corps. The topics were sustainability, transportation, community, equity and inclusion, and basketball.

Ms. McLeese had forwarded the data prior to today's meeting. Dr. Spencer suggested that they do an executive summary of what the results are from this survey to summarize their conclusions. It was also suggested that they might want to use some electronic means to do the survey, i.e., the "clicker" technology noting that if funding would be a problem, they could look into using the Parent Fund and this would be an interesting way to partner with Dr. Sims' area to put in a proposal for funding for a more valid type of survey. Dr. Brown encouraged them to share this information with others. Ms. McLeese commended them on the preparation, work, and time that was put into this survey process.

IV. Old Business

A. Laura Freeman, Resolution on Graduate Meal Plans – Changes

Ms. Freeman noted that the reason for the resolution is that graduate students have different needs when it comes down to meal plans and they should be allowed to purchase a different type of flex/meal plan. Through this process what she learned is that you live on campus, the room and board is bundled in one full package. So the route they were planning to take would not work. They are working with the CRC about a meal plan, looking at having different policies for graduate students noting that graduate students are facing the same policies but come from very different circumstances. It was noted that this is also an issue.

Ms. McLeese encouraged members to be more willing to bring items forth because this is such an educational process and encouraged dialogue with people from different areas who can tell you what works, what doesn't, etc.

Another issue brought up is that New Hall West residents are interested in using the kitchen (students who want to eat more locally and organically, etc.) Dr. Spencer asked Dr. Shushok to arrange a meeting with Rick Johnson, Director of

Housing and Dining Services, and a couple of people interested to talk about these issues.

B. Sara Brickman, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance – Resolution for Constitution Revisions/Updates, 1st Reading

Although there was a first reading at the December CSA meeting, there was no official document, so the official first reading was presented today by Sara Brickman and Aimee Kanode. They distributed to the members the constitution revisions, noting changes that were made. The second reading will be presented at the February 18 meeting and then a vote will be called for.

V. New Business

- A. Nominations/Appointments for Undergraduate BOV Review Committee
Ms. Hartman explained the purpose and timeline for the Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors and then opened the floor for nominations of those to serve on the subcommittee that is needed to select the three finalists who would then go on to be interviewed by the Board of Visitors. Those nominated were: Monique Johnson, Frank Hernandez, Brandon Carroll, Ben Wade, and Nathan Lavinka. The nominations were seconded, and the motion was approved.

VI. Other

Before announcements, McLeese raised an issue that had been discussed last semester regarding anonymous postings/comments in the Collegiate Times. After explaining to new members of CSA that as a follow-up to the discussion during a CSA meeting last semester, a follow-up meeting had been held to discuss this matter with the CT and it has sort of gone under the rug (there were some extremely offensive comments made on the blog site following last week's Diversity Summit). Brandon Carroll and Laura Freeman are jointly working on soliciting feedback in an attempt to try and move this issue forward. Some suggestions were made on how CSA might be able to provide support to this effort:

- A statement of support from CSA in support of the CT changing their commenting system
- a resolution, pulling ads by all the groups from this commission, having a statement in support of them changing their commenting system
- Charging a subcommittee to work on this.
- Dr. Spencer noted that this can be taken all the way to the University Governance system to withdraw their support of the media association.
- The commission could request that Dr. Sims' office hold up on signing the agreement with the Educational Media Company until they have a chance to reach an agreement with the CT.
- Get statements from faculty and staff senates.

- At minimum, pass the resolution that UUSA hold up on signing the agreement. The budget board could also note that we will not entertain funding for CT Ads.
- Give them the opportunity to correct their mistakes before pulling funding. It was noted that this could ultimately upset the student body if there is not a student newspaper.

A motion was made asking Dr. Sims' office not to sign the renewal of the contract with EMCVT until the Commission has time to attempt to resolve its differences with the Collegiate Times. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made to form a subcommittee to look into this. With the motion seconded and approved, the subcommittee is: Anna LoMoscolo, Monique Johnson, Meg Gough, Aimee Kanode, Ben Wade, Frank Shushok, Tom Medina, Frank Hernandez, , Kristina Hartman, Sharmin Shamsalsadati, and Leighton Vila. (Leighton and Tom will serve as Co-Chairs)

Ms. McLeese will alert the General Manager (Kelly Wolff) of the CT and the Editor-in-Chief (Sara Mitchell) regarding the resolution passed and the fact that the Commission is contemplating pulling budget board funding of CT ads if an agreement is not worked out.

VII. Announcements

1. Lessons from the past, challenges ahead for a new Haiti, Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 7:00 p.m., in the Graduate Life Center
2. Laura Freeman will resend the link to the Membership Review Survey for members to fill out.
3. A Latina Forum will be held on February 15, at 6:30 p.m., in Colonial Hall

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Rogers
Recording Secretary