

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, March 22nd, 2012

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

Present: Matt Banfield, Sandy Bass, Tom Brown, Tyler Campbell, Naomi Dam, Corbin DiMeglio, Rick Ferraro, Monika Gibson, Allie Golden, Michael Goodwin, Veronica Ardaya for Erlan Guzman, Atieh Haghdooost, Billi Hockman, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson, Mary Ann Lewis, Chris McDonough, Kelley McKew, Michelle McLeese, Shree Narayanan, Nikki Roy, Garrett Compton for Caroline Sapyta, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Steve Hamilton for Jay Tucker, Emily Wilkinson

Absent: Shaimaa Abdallah, Chris Atkins, Lauren Beecher, Jake Grohs, Ceseley Haynes, Zack Helmintoller, Stephen Higgs, Farzana Rashid, Robert Sebek,

Guests: Robyn Jones, Nick Onopa, Adam Smith, Daniel Wubah

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bass called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made to adopt the agenda for the March 22, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded, carried, and the agenda was adopted.

III. Welcome from Chair

Mr. Bass announced that the CSA membership proposal has been approved by University Council.

IV. Icebreaker – Show and Tell, Vice-Chair Rawlin Jefferson

- a. Dr. Rick Ferraro – Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs
Dr. Ferraro shared that they received a request from Delta Sigma Phi to hold a Blood Drive and it was very successful. He noted that this reminds us that there are many ways we can give.
- b. Emily Wilkinson – SGA Vice-President
Ms. Wilkinson shared that SGA elections are going on and they are pleased to have two full tickets this year. Voting open up on Monday, March 26 and information candidates can be found on the SGA website.

V. Guest Speaker(s)/Presenter(s)

a. Introduce Final Undergraduate BOV Candidates (3) – *Matt Banfield*

Mr. Banfield introduced the three finalists for the position of 2012-13 Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Visitors and the two candidates in attendance gave a brief statement on what their focus would be if selected to serve:

Nick Onopa – Public and Urban Affairs
Adam Smith – Economics & Philosophy
Kevin Peterson – Mechanical Engineering

b. The CLE – *Dr. Daniel Wubah, Vice-President and Dean for Undergraduate Education Curriculum for Liberal Education*

Dr. Wubah reported on the CLE and the process that has been started to revamp the program. He has appointed a Director of the program, Dr. Dan Thorpe who has been working with the UUCLE in setting up workshops where about 50 faculty members have attended. A committee of 11 faculty members and one undergraduate student will be working on the revamping of the program so that they can make a recommendation. Dr. Wubah hopes to have this program, which will be totally different from what they have not, in place and implemented by the fall of 2014.

In responding to questions, Dr. Wubah noted that at this point, no one knows what the new model will look like. He also noted that there were 450 CLE courses but since the establishment of the CLE Office, they have gotten rid of 70 of those courses. Once a model is determined, each course will have to go through an approval process. In response to a question, Dr. Wubah noted that at this point, no one knows what the new plan will look like. He hopes to come back and meet with CSA next year to report on the new model.

c. Involvement/Collaboration with other Organizations – *Dr. Guy Sims, Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs*

Dr. Sims did a presentation on collaboration among student organizations, noting the top ten reasons why groups should collaborate.

- Good stewards of student fees – collaboration so that we are managing and maximizing our money
- Promotes team building and teamwork
- Confront the status quo
- Support and encourage diverse perspectives
- Inclusive and representative of the people being served
- Increased participation
- Discover our common identity
- New friends and networking
- Collaboration is a life skill
- Collaboration is our value here at Virginia Tech

He stated that collaboration with one another allows groups to go from good to great!

- d. **LGBTQA New Constitution Proposal – *Caroline Sparta***
Mr. Garrett Compton presented the first reading of the Resolution for the LGBTQA constitutional revisions. After questions, some points of clarification, and recommendations regarding some wording and the suggestion to collaborate with graduate students, Mr. Bass announced that the second reading will take place at the next meeting.

VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. New Business

- a. **Degree Distribution, *Tyler Campbell, Class of 2013 President***
Mr. Campbell raised a concern about a discussion at the last Commencement Committee meeting regarding degree distribution. There is a proposal that, in order to save funds and labor costs and because some students are border-line passing or failing, that degrees be picked up from the college offices or be received through the mail. At the next Commencement Meeting, they will be discussing student opinion on this issue, so feedback was requested from the group.
- Dr. Spencer and Dr. Lewis noted that the cost will only be transferred to huge mailing costs.
 - More of an issue, rather than costs, is accuracy and timing; the students who do not get cleared for graduation or the one who thought they had an A or B and ended up with a F, but have the diploma in hand.
 - Ms. Hunter noted that only doctoral students get their degrees at Commencement, Master's students have not gotten their diplomas at Commencement for several years.
 - What about the consequence of individuals not going to graduation at all if they know they are not going to get a diploma during the ceremony.
 - Caution about the "money issue" because after parents paying for four years of college, they will not be happy to hear that the issue is money.
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- b. **CT Survey Update – *Sub-Committee Chair, Michelle McLeese***
Ms. McLeese commented on an e-mail note from Zach Crizer, Editor of the CT, noting changes they have made to their on-line comment policy. The two changes that addressed the concerns of the Commission are:
- Comments must not contain personal attacks, name-calling, hateful language, obscenity, profanity (including variations with letters replaced by symbols) or sexually explicit material.
 - Comments may not contain intimidating or threatening material, nor may they contain material that degrades others based on race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexual orientation, religion, disability or other classifications.

Ms. McLeese asked CSA member to e-mail and let the CT know that you appreciate the changes and she also noted that she should have the CT readership survey results at the next CSA meeting.

Dr. Spencer moved that the Commission send a letter of commendation and appreciation for having changed their position on this. The motion was seconded, and carried. Mr. Bass will draft the letter as an open letter to the CT with assistance from Dr. Spencer and Ms. McLeese.

VIII. Announcements

- Mr. Bass will be doing follow-up with Dr. Siler on the Stadium Woods issue and bring feedback to the next meeting.
- Mr. Bass and Mr. Dimeglio will be battling for donations for Relay for Life and the one who raises the most money gets to pie the other in the face
- Information sessions for Homecoming Court 2012 are scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on the following days: Monday, March 26, in Brush Mountain A and on Tuesday, March 27, in 219 Squires.
- Mr. Narayanan announced that GSA elections for 2012-13 have been completed and they have a full board. Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah will be President.
- Ms. McLeese announced the three finalists for the 2012-13 Graduate Representative to the Board of Visitors: Dakota Farquhar-Caddell, Carrie Sanders, and Robyn Jones. Ms. Jones was in attendance and gave a brief statement on her platform.
- Mr. Goodwin announced that it is Jewish Awareness Month and also announced that Poetry at the Grove will be held on April 3, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 pm.

IX. Adjournment: Motion was made for adjournment, seconded, and carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.