

COMMISSION on STUDENT AFFAIRS

April 2, 2009

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room

Squires Student Center

Minutes

Present: Davis Bailey, Linsey Barker, Tom Brown, Paul Deyerle, Rick Ferraro, James Freeman, Lauren Keister for Monika Gibson, Hannah Goff, Bo Hart, Monica Hunter, Darryl Whitehurst for Destiny Jackson, Nathan Lavinka, Matt Zackon for Emily Mashack, Emily Mauger, Leon McClinton, Rebecca French for Michelle McLeese, Ingrid Ngai, Matt Penny, Abby Schoenfeld, Roshaan Settle, Edward Spencer, Richard Umemoto, Kirsten Kube for Rianka Urbina, Camille Waldron

Absent: Billy Brubaker, Virgilio Centeno, Judith Condezo, Ron Daniel, Lauren Davis, Brian Golden, Arlane Gordon-Bray, Adeel Khan, Brad Klein, Tanya LeRoith, Anna LoMascolo, Joseph McFadden, Duane Rollins, Karen Sanders, Johnathan Stein, Krishna Vummidi

Guests: Steve Burrell, Taylor Powell, David Ramras, Darryl Whitehurst

I. Call to Order

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

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Ngai called for adoption of the agenda. Motion was made to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

III. Guest Speaker

A. Monica Hunter, Associate Director of Campus Programs, and Steve Burrell, Assistant Director of Student Organizations

1. Mr. Burrell distributed to the group for review the RSO Student Budget Board Funding Strategy and Funding Cut Strategies for 2009-2010. He explained that there are 698 registered RSO's and 650 could make requests to the RSO Budget Board. He noted that there is more funding requested than the Budget Board can provide. Hearings are held in February and funding decisions are made in March. In response to a question regarding the process, it was explained that the group submits their budget to the Student Budget Board which meets and goes over each budget, page by page, allowing groups to present information that does

not fit on the form so that the Board can get an understanding of what is requested and why, how they justify their figures, etc.

Process for appeals for both Boards (RSO's and UCSO's). A group can file an appeal based on three criteria: policy & procedures were not followed by Budget Board, they were not given adequate time at the hearing to present, or the funding decision was arbitrary or capricious. The organization has to write a letter of appeal and make their case. If the appeal meets the criteria, the special appeals Committee will review the appeal and bring a recommendation to the April 30 CSA meeting. If an RSO meets the criteria, they appeal to the Student Budget Board through Mr. Burrell.

Ms. Hunter distributed the Student Budget Board Funding Strategies and Funding Cut Strategies for 2009-2010. Members of the Student Budget Board were introduced: Taylor Powell, Co-Chair, David Ramras, and Darryl Whitehurst.

In response to a question, it was explained that instructions on how to submit budgets are being followed by the organizations, but cuts have to be made to get down to a reasonable number. All organizations had very well put together budgets, which is attributed to the training workshops that were held. It was noted that the Board worked hard to prepare to have up-front money to get groups through this year, so there were very few contingency requests.

In response to a question regarding funding of publicity and why is it first to be cut, Ms. Hunter explained that if you have a bigger name coming to campus, usually word of mouth will get people out, rather than having a small speaker and not getting anybody to come. Many students do not read the Collegiate Times on a regular basis; they tend to use Facebook, email, etc. Actually the budget item hit the most is contract performer fees. She also noted that the size of the organization is not taken into account; funding is based on the impact that the organization will have on the campus community as a whole.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of Student Budget Board, subject to any changes that might be made through appeals. The motion was seconded and approved.

2. Appointment of Appeals Committee

Ms. Hunter asked for volunteers to make up the Budget Board Appeals Committee: The following volunteered: Camille Waldron, Richard Umemoto, Emily Mauger, Paul Deyerle, Matt Zackon, and Guy Sims (Chair). Budgets will be sent out with instructions on the appeals process.

IV. Old Business

The second reading of the McComas Fitness Program Resolution was presented and the following amendments were made:

- It was recommended to change the wording in the first "Whereas" to read: "Virginia Tech is among the nation's leaders in **undergraduate** and graduate

education, research, and community engagement”. A motion was made to accept the amendment; the motion was seconded and approved.

- The second recommendation was to change the wording in the second “And be it Further Resolved: “that the Commission on Student Affairs believes this option will allow not only for faculty and staff to use another facility but will also generate funds that may help in minimizing the cutting of programs or group fitness....” A motion was made to accept this amendment, the motion was seconded and approved.

There being no other discussion, there was a motion to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded and approved.

V. Announcements

1. The Graduate Honors System has undertaken a revision of their constitution that will significantly improve the system and streamline some of the processes. All are invited to review the proposed changes and comment. They can access these changes at <http://ghs.grads.vt.edu/>. All comments should go to ghs@vt.edu.
2. The Homecoming Board has kicked off the theme contest and information can be found at <http://www.vthomecoming.org.vt.edu/>.
3. April is Asian Pacific Heritage Month – They will have a guest speaker, Cathy Bao Bean, on April 13, at 7:00 p.m., in the Commonwealth Ballroom followed by a reception.
4. VT Union Events:
April 10 & 11, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, at 8:00 p.m., Colonial Hall
April 13, To Write Love on Her Arms, at 7:30 p.m., Old Dominion Ballroom
5. The International Street Fair: Saturday, April 4, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This year they have 62 organizations participating and 53 are serving food. There will be 14 groups performing and four contract performers

VI. Adjournment

Motion was made for meeting adjournment, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rhonda M. Rogers
Recording Secretary