

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

April 7, 2011

Present: Sandy Bass, Sara Brickman, Tom Brown, Sue Buyrn, Tyler Campbell, Michael Cardman, Deepu George, Monika Gibson, Caroline Gimenez, Bo Hart, Lauren Heming, Designee for Stacey Pannell, Eric Hodges, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson, Designee for Pamella Palmer, Nathan Lavinka, Mary Ann Lewis, Sharbari Dey for Anna LoMascolo, Shane McCarty, Michelle McLeese, Jonathan Moore, Bryan West for Joe Seaton, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Designee for Kim Carlson, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Leighton Vila, Alex Walker, Emily Wilkinson, Designee for Greer Kelly

Absent: Parisa Ahmadi, Rick Ferraro, Frank Hernandez, Brad Klein, Matt Parker, David Ramras, Robert Sebek, Frank Shushok, Shyrah Thomas, Joe Tran

Guests: Ana Barrenechea, Scott Bennett, Steve Burrell, Corbin DiMeglio, Lauren Howard, Shree Narayanan, Melissa Yates, Casey Whitehead, Ray Williams

I. Call to Order

Nathan Lavinka, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made to adopt agenda. The motion was seconded and the agenda was approved. Amendment to agenda, Stacey will not be here, but Lauren will be presenting. Agenda was approved as amended.

III. Welcome and Chair Update (s)

- The CSA Transition meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, at 3:30 p.m., in Brush Mountain A. All current CSA members are asked to attend and to bring their student representation who will serve on the Commission next year. This meeting will be to do an overview of CSA, get the current members perspectives on CSA, etc. Refreshments will be provided.
- Mr. Lavinka opened the floor for nominations for next year's CSA Chair and Vice Chair. The vote will take place at the April 21 meeting. He noted that one stipulation to serve is that you have to be on the Commission next year. Those nominated were:
Chairperson: Sandy Bass
Vice Chair: Rawlin Jefferson
Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the next meeting prior to voting.

IV. Guest Speakers/Presenters

- A. Monica Hunter, Associate Director of Campus Programs, Steve Burrell, Assistant Director of Student Organizations, *2011-2012 Budget Board Allocations*

Ms. Hunter distributed handouts explaining the requirements to submit for annual funding, the Annual Funding 2011-2012 Funding summary, and then the Student Budget Board Allocations for RSOs and UCSO's. She also reviewed the appeal process noting that RSO appeals go to the Student Budget Board and UCSO appeals go to a subcommittee of CSA. At that point she asked that a subcommittee be appointed. Ms. Monika Gibson will serve as chair of the Appellate Committee and the committee members are: Caroline Gimenez, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Emily Wilkinson, Leighton Vila, Rawlin Jefferson, and Lauren Heming.

Motion was made to approve the Subcommittee appointed. The motion was seconded and carried.

V. Old Business

- A. Monica Hunter, Associate Director of Campus Programs, *Student Organization Funding Sub-Committee Report*

Speaking on behalf of the Subcommittee that was formed to look at the Student Organization funding process, Ms. Hunter noted that several months ago there was discussion about what types of things we look at when funding and the policies and procedures. The subcommittee did not feel like they could look at policies and procedures without looking at the type of funding available for organizations, noting that RCOs and UCSOs are very different. So the subcommittee has spent the past year developing new types of funding in hopes of having an additional subcommittee to look at the policies and procedures. Caroline Gimenez and Emily Wilkinson did a presentation on where the subcommittee would like to go with the types of funding for RSOs. A flow chart was distributed describing this process.

The next step is to look at policies and procedures to make sure they are in line with the new types of funding. Mr. Steve Burrell noted that the goal is that if this new structure is approved for 2012-13, this would give us a cycle of what is annual funding now, and to be able to use the Fall of 2012 to train students on what will need to be done in the spring. The suggestion was made to wait and hold voting on this proposal until the April 21 meeting so that the information can be reviewed carefully. Ms. McCleese raised a question about funding for service travel, which had been omitted from the proposal and it was noted that the decision was made to leave that one off for now at one of the sub-committee meetings that she did not attend. Ms. McCleese noted for the record that she was in the hospital at that time. The Commission agreed to table this item until April 21.

- B. Michelle McCleese, GSA President, Leighton Villa, Master's Candidate, *CSA/CT Survey*
Michelle and Leighton went through the survey questions and recommendations that were compiled by the subcommittee. Subcommittee members were Caroline Gimenez,

Leighton Vila, Meg Gough, Sara Brickman, and a Survey Methodologist, Dr. Ted Fuller. The survey included general questions, readership questions, on-line commenting questions, and demographic questions. .

Subcommittee Recommendations:

- University should survey a random sample of graduate and undergraduate students to address these points based on the costs, resources needed, etc. through Institutional Research, Students Affairs, or some other University department
- Students are concerned about the quality of the CT as a news publication
- Students question whether Student Activity Fees should support the CT (via funding the EMCVT)
- The technological evolution of this media necessitates a review of the current contract between the University and the CT/EMCVT

In summary, CSA should discuss making a recommendation to the University to sponsor a survey to address student issues, drawing from a random sample of both graduate and undergraduate students, by using the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, the Registrar's Office, and any other resources necessary to maintain scientific integrity of study, and that in these efforts CSA collaborate with the CT staff in order to have a balanced panel of students involved. (It was noted that every time the subcommittee has met, they have invited Peter Velz, the CT Editor, to the meetings, but he has not attended).

Dr. Spencer commented that if the Commission wants to do the survey, Student Affairs would be willing to sponsor and there ought to be an expanded subcommittee to take a serious look at the survey, get another consult on methodology, and the CT staff needs to be asked to review the survey and offer any concerns that they have. Dr. Spencer suggested that once the Editorship position changes, that person should be contacted.

Dr. Spencer then made a motion that the current subcommittee be expanded to include others to review the draft of the survey so far and to involve another methodologist to take a look at it and to also ask the CT to take a look at it, and with the final version come back to the Commission for final approval before we seek IRB approval. The motion was seconded. Following further discussion on the idea to consider the thought of what exactly we are trying to do, how slowly this process is moving, that the CT simply may not be taking us seriously, and then the explanation that because the EMCVT contract is with the University, the data are needed to show the University what the concerns are, the motion was carried.

There will be discussion on expanding the subcommittee at the April 14 transition meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Stacy Pannell, Black Organizations Council President, *Constitutional Amendments/Revisions*, 1st Reading

In Stacy's absence, Ms. Lauren Heming gave the first reading on the constitution amendments/revisions for BOC, with the biggest changes being removing some of the positions and changing the timing of their elections. The second reading will be at the April 21 meeting.

B. Bo Hart, SGA President, *Support for Vertical Garden Initiative*, 1st Reading

Mr. Bo Hart and Mr. Scott Bennett presented the first reading of a resolution to support the Vertical Garden Initiative, which was already passed by the House and Senate of the SGA. As a point of clarification, Mr. Lavinka noted that these resolutions, B & C will need to be approved by University Council if passed by CSA, thus they would need to be approved today to go before University Council. Because of questions raised regarding costs and health issues (allergies), a motion was made that this discussion be tabled until more information could be provided. A motion was made and seconded to table this discussion until the April 21 meeting. The motion carried and there will be a second reading at the April 21 meeting.

C. Bo Hart, SGA President, *Recycling Receipts in Dining Halls*, 1st Reading

Mr. Bennett presented another resolution that supports the recycling of paper receipts at all university administered dining halls on campus. Motion was made to waive the first reading. The motion was seconded and carried. It was then moved for a second reading, which was seconded and carried. This item will move on to University Council.

D. Bo Hart, SGA President, *Constitutional Amendment/Revisions*, 1st Reading

Mr. Hart introduced Ms. Casey Whitehead who presented the first reading for changes to the SGA Constitution which is recommended that the Executive Officers President and Vice President be elected and that the President then have the power to appoint a secretary and Treasurer, rather than those positions being elected. The second reading will be presented at the April 21 meeting.

VII. Announcements

- Ms. Vila announced that there will be a presentation on April 27 about the possibility of Virginia Tech having the first Phillipino and Ethnic Studies class on the East Coast next spring. The presentation will be held in 341 Squires, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Student Government Association inauguration ceremony will be held on April 13, at 5:30 p.m. on the Burruss Hall Steps. The rain location will be the War Memorial Chapel.
- Jorge Cham, a Panamanian cartoonist and roboticist, will be presenting in the Graduate Life Center auditorium on April 13, at 7:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Rogers, Secretary