

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

September 29, 2011

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

Present: Shaimaa Abadallah, Matthew Benfield, Sandy Bass, Sarah Balkcom (for Lauren Beecher), Tom Brown, Sue Buyrn, Tyler Campbell, Naomi Dam, Corbin DiMeglio, Rick Ferraro, Monika Gibson, Jacob Grohs, Erlan Guzman, Mehdi Kargar (for Atieh Haghdoost), Ceseley Haynes (Designee for Julia Bradley), Zack Helmtoller, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson, Kimberly Brown (for Mary Ann Lewis), Justyna Majdas (CISO representative) Chris McDonough, Kelley McKew, Michelle McLeese, Margaret McQuain, Shree Narayanan, Nikki Roy, Caroline Sapyta, Robert Sebek, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Ed Spencer, Angelica Smith (for Jay Tucker), John Waters, Alex Walker, Emily Wilkinson

Absent: Cheyenne Marshall, Tom Schlegel, Frank Shushok, Guy Sims

Guests: Lauren Howard, Karen Eley Sanders, Wanda Dean, Rachel Holloway, Kimberly Brown

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bass called the meeting to order at 3: 30 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made to adopt the agenda from the September 15, 2011 CSA meeting. The motion was seconded, carried, and the September 15, 2011 agenda was adopted.

III. Welcome from Chair

Mr. Bass thanked everyone for their attendance and being on time to get the meeting started promptly at 3:30 p.m.

IV. Icebreaker – Show and Tell, Vice-Chair Sue Buyrn

Ms. Buyrn introduced Mr. Corbin DiMeglio and Mr. Shree Narayanan to do “Show and Tell”. Mr. DiMeglio showed the Maroon Effect shirts noting that they are a fundraiser for SGA and encouraged everyone to wear them to the Clemson/VT Maroon Effect game on Saturday. Mr. Narayanan talked about the Graduate Student Assembly programming, service events that they participate in, and announced that they will be launching a logo contest that will be open to all students, to develop a logo for the GSA. The plan is to award the finalist a \$100 gift card. They hope to have the contest finished by the end of Fall Semester.

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

A. Mr. Tom Brown, Dean of Students: *Presidential Task Force*

Mr. Brown distributed a handout related to the University Strategic Plan (i.e., long range plan and presidential task force) for 2012-2018 and explained why a strategic plan is needed: an opportunity to set priorities, and to keep VT on the cutting edge, to remain a premier institution. It is an opportunity to identify what makes Virginia Tech unique, and to plot the future of Virginia Tech. The plan is focused on three Scholarship Domains: Learning, Discovery, and Engagement and on the three Foundation Domains: Organizational Development, Campus Infrastructure, and Resource Development, Allocation, and Management. As a part of the process, five sub-committees have been organized and representatives from each committee shared the focus of their committee and requested feedback.

- i. Tomorrow's Leaders: Student Academics & Student life
- ii. Tomorrow's Scholars: Quality of graduate education, internationalizing the graduate student experience, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary curricula
- iii. Tomorrow's Knowledge: How the research is going to be done, what kind of research should be defined.
- iv. Tomorrow's University: Encompasses the first three categories, global environment, being adaptive and sustainable, etc. Looking for barriers and motivators for study abroad.
- v. Envisioning Excellence: How VT can best position itself to sustain a culture of excellence: Innovation is the key word to maintain its standard of excellence.

Mr. Brown stated that this is an on-going process, but by the end of the semester there will be a working document and things will be a lot more clear. Any comments can be e-mailed to Mr. Brown.

B. Dr. Kimberly Brown, University Studies: *Academic Advising*

Dr. Brown, Director of the University Academic Advising Center, did a power point presentation on Academic Advising that illustrated what they are currently doing, what is planned on the horizon, and to get feedback on ideas of what students would like to see related to academic advising, noting that advising is a shared responsibility between the student and the advisor. She also shared the results of some assessment tools that were conducted and findings from a Task Force that was convened in the fall of 2009.

- There are multiple advising models
- There are no common learning outcomes
- Advisors receive insufficient support in training and recognition to promote high caliber advising across the University
- 98% of students knew the who their advisor was

- 82% had met with their advisor
- 48% of the respondents did not meet with their advisor for course request,
- Common for students to seek advising assistance from resources other than their advisor

Some Advising Priorities are:

- Developing a consistently high quality of advising services,
- Developing a comprehensive faculty and professional advisor development program, and
- Making effective use of technology to support the system of academic advising, as well as the delivery of advising services.

C. Ms. Wanda Dean and Dr. Rachel Holloway: *Academic Eligibility*

Ms. Dean, University Registrar, introduced Dr. Rachel Holloway, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs for the college of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, representing the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policy. They distributed information that is a revision to the current undergraduate academic eligibility policy. Dr. Holloway explained why the resolution came forward and the resources available. Currently, the academic eligibility policy is based on a cumulative GPA and as long as a student's overall GPA stays at 2.0 or above, they can still stay in good standing. The new policy is adding a category called "academic warning", which is a way to alert the dean's office that there has been a term GPA less than 2.0- while they maintain the overall GPA over 2.0. This will allow the dean's office to contact the student and intervene early. It is heading to the first reading at University Council. Dr. Spencer moved that CSA endorse this policy proposal, the motion was seconded, and carried.

VI. Old Business – None

VII. New Business

A. Academic Support Committee Representative

Ms. Dean explained that the Academic Support committee is a standing committee that deals with issues of registration, the university calendar, scholarships and financial aid, etc. It is mixture of students, faculty and administrators and is chaired by Dr. Mike Denbow. Mr. Bass asked for nominations from the floor so that the Commission will have a seat on this committee. Ms. Michelle McLeese nominated herself and with there being no other nominations, the motion was made, seconded, and carried. Ms. McLeese will represent CSA on the Academic Support Committee.

VIII. Announcements

- Ms. McLeese announced that there will be a graduate student luncheon with Dr. Steger, Dr. McNamee, Dr. Depauw, and Dr. Spencer on Monday, October 3 at the Inn at Virginia Tech.
- Zack Helmtoller announced that top management from Price Waterhouse is coming to Virginia Tech in November, wanting to meet Business student leaders. Any Business majors should e-mail Mr. Helmtoller if they are interested.
- Dr. Ferraro announced that there will be a flu clinic in McComas Hall on October 4.
- There will be a seminar entitled: The Diversity Classroom: the Good the Bad and the Ugly, at the Inn at Virginia Tech on Tuesday, October 5, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- The 2013 Ring Premiere will be held in Burruss Hall on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.