

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, November 10th, 2011

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

Present: Shaimaa Abdallah, Matt Banfield, Sandy Bass (Chair), Lauren Beecher, Sue Buyrn, Tyler Campbell, Naomi Dam, Austin Tatum (for Corbin DiMeglio), Rick Ferraro, Monika Gibson, Jake Grohs, Erlan Guzman, Atieh Haghdoost, Ceseley Haynes, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson, Mary Ann Lewis, Chris McDonough, Kelley McKew, Michelle McLeese, Margaret McQuain, Shree Narayanan, Farzana Rashid, Nikki Roy, Caroline Sapyta, Michael Goodwin (for Tom Schlegel), Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Jay Tucker, John Waters, Emily Wilkinson

Absent: Tom Brown, Zack Helmtoller, Cheyenne Marshall, Robert Sebak, Frank Shushok, Alex Walker

Guests: Aileen Dollete, Grant Black, Dale Robinson

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 November 10, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded, carried, and the agenda was adopted.

III. Welcome from Chair

Mr. Bass welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed hope that CSA membership discussion would be resolved.

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

- a. Katelin Shugart-Schmidt – Graduate Student
Ms. Shugart-Schmidt informed the group that every case that comes to the Honor Court to be heard is treated as though it is the first case to come through the system. There is no precedent to follow.
- b. Nikki Roy – Undergraduate Student
Ms. Roy announced that the Virginia Tech/Georgia Tech football game for Thursday evening will be shown in Colonia Hall.

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

a. Dale Robinson, Professional Mediator: *CSA Membership*

Mr. Bass turned the meeting over to Mr. Robinson for further discussion on CSA Membership. Mr. Robinson explained that since the last meeting Dr. Sims took down all of the thoughts about principles and options and constructed three separate proposals for discussion, noting that there would not be a formal vote at today's meeting, but at the end he would ask if there is any general information about which one(s) might Dr. Sims add value to. The hope is that if there is going to be a consideration of redoing CSA membership, a proposal would have to be read twice at CSA and then go to University Council for two readings. At the December meeting, hopefully the final resolution can be drafted and be ready for the first reading at the first meeting Spring Semester. Dr. Sims was then asked to come up and present the three proposals.

Following a lengthy discussion and many questions, it was determined that the Student Organizations Council needs to be thought through before any voting can be done on CSA membership. It was felt that there needs to be more definition of the Council because if they are a group that elects or chooses people to move from that group to CSA, people need to know the operational guidelines for that group. Thus, Mr. Robinson felt that we can't move forward until that has been done.

Ms. McCleese added that because CSA is a governance body, seats on the Commission should have a governance component. Mr. Bass asked everyone to keep in mind that while we are looking at CSA membership, we are not looking to eliminate positions, but we are staring at a blank slate, members that will fit the charge of CSA.

Because the membership did not get past Dr. Sim's first proposal, Mr. Robinson did not ask for a straw poll. He did ask if the membership felt that they can move on with the CSA component at this point with the Student Organizations Council still being in a grey area and the consensus of the group was to move ahead at the next meeting to get a decision reached on one of the three proposals (Dr. Sims will be taking the first proposal and revising based on comments and feedback during discussion). Thus, the next meeting focus will be on the three proposals presented by Dr. Sims, noting that other proposals can also be submitted to Dr. Sims.

Mr. Robinson closed the discussion by thanking everyone for a healthy discussion and good deliberations, noting that there is still work to be done.

VI. Old Business – NEED SPEAKERS TO PRESENT

a. *Point of View of Graduate Students*

Mr. Shree Narayanan will be giving a presentation from the point of view of graduate students.

- b. *Student Leadership Compensation*
Ms. McLeese will be doing a presentation on Student Leadership Compensation.

VII. New Business

- a. Monica Hunter, Motion to Create a Budget Board Sub-Committee
Ms. Hunter asked for a motion to create a Budget Board Sub-Committee to look at the guidelines, policies and procedures for Budget Board. This groups needs to get together and be ready to go for the 2012-13 budget year. Motion was made, seconded and carried. Those selected to serve on the sub-committee are: Michelle McLeese, Emily Wilkinson, Matt Banfield, Shree Narayanan, Naomi Dam, Nikki Roy, Rawlin Jefferson, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Erlan Guzman, Jake Grohs, and Michael Goodwin.
- b. Michelle McLeese, Chair of *The Collegiate Times* Sub-Committee
Ms. McLeese reported that the sub-committee has only met once, but the next meeting will be set up. There will be recommendations and survey questions that were used last year and she reported that they will be working with Dr. Martha Glass, the Associate Director of Administration for Assessment, in the Division of Student Affairs to assist with the survey, with the idea to get a student random sample on the *Collegiate Times* as a whole (not just on-line commenting). In response to a question, Ms. McLeese noted that Ms. Kelly Wolff is aware of the charge of the sub-committee and Ms. McLeese is keeping them apprised of what is going on. Ms. Shugart-Schmidt reported that she followed-up with Ms. Wolff regarding some comments Ms. Wolff made during her earlier presentation to the membership regarding some court opinions and the CDA Also, in reference to an ad in the CT shortly after Ms. Wolff and Mr. Crizer met with the Commission, Ms. Shugart-Schmidt recommended that there be a resolution that the CT be supportive of the Principles of Community. Mr. Bass asked Ms. Shugart-Schmidt and Ms. McLeese to write up a statement of support.

Ms. McLeese also shared some items of discussion at the last Academic Support Committee meeting that she attended:

- Graduate subsidized loans are going away in July 2012
- There is going to be an increase in the undergraduate loan interest
- Discussion on changing the Thanksgiving calendar (cutting the break and having a longer fall break).

Before adjourning, Ms. Bass asked the membership to be patient in regard to other issues on the agenda, they are not going to be ignored, noting that the CSA membership issue is critical and needs to be resolved.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.

