

# MINUTES

## Virginia Tech University Council: Commission on Student Affairs (CSA) Minutes

January 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Commission chair Mr. Matt Chan at 3:30 p.m.

### In attendance

Susan Anderson, Travis Bauer, Julia Billingsley, Matt Chan, Alicia Cohen, Pat Finn, Aliana Harrison, Amy Hermundstad, Alex Hyler, Jaclyn Marmol, Kisha Gresham for Brett Netto, Mairead Novak, Meriam Nure, James Orr, Andrew Peck, Patty Perillo, Tara Reel, Evan Robohm, Chris Saunders, Liang Shi, Lauren Surface, Cameron Varano, Hannah Whiteman

### Absent with notification

Allison Aviles Garcia, Gabe Cohen

### Attending guests

Tom Brown, Fred Lamb, Tracy Newton, Gina Tamburro

### Absent

Byron Hughes

### Approval of Agenda and Past Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried. A motion was also made to approve the minutes for the December 1, 2016 meeting of CSA. The motion was seconded and approved.

### Presentation

Mr. Chan provided an introduction of CSA to new members of the Commission, as well as a report of CSA activities last semester, and a preview to this current semester.

### Committee Reports

There is no report from the Hokie Handbook Review Committee as the Committee has not met since the last report.

Mr. Fred Lamb, vice chair of the Student Budget Board (SBB), gave its monthly report to the Commission. SBB has met twice since the beginning of 2017. The Board has proposed shortening the time devoted to University Chartered Student Organizations' (UCSOs) annual funding request process, with the Board planning to complete all hearings on 2/17 and 2/25. UCSO annual funding requests are set to be due on 2/6.

### Constituency Updates

Ms. Julia Billingsley gave an update on Student Government Association (SGA) activities. The annual Hokie Day where students are to lobby on behalf of the university to lawmakers at Richmond will take place on 2/1 and 2/2. This year more than 100 students are participating, with 70 students returning from past participation.

Ms. Alex Hyler gave an update on Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) activities. Chelsea Corkins has recently stepped down from her position as president of the GSA, as such the GSA will be holding a special election for her position. The GSA is planning its Beer and Wine social to be held later this spring, as well as its annual Research Symposium and Exposition, where all graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to submit abstracts. This year, an emphasis will be put on non-STEM submissions, where students will have an opportunity to present their work in a media that is appropriate to their field, such as performances.

Ms. Tara Reel gave updates on the activities they are engaging in as student representatives to the Board of Visitors (BoV). Applications for both the undergraduate and graduate representatives to the BoV are now open and will be due on 2/10 at 5 p.m. The top three candidates of each positions will be invited to CSA for

an opportunity to interact with Commission members. Ms. Reel added that Mr. Gabe Cohen is looking for a CSA undergraduate member to join their nomination committee.

### **University Council and Commission Updates**

Mr. Andrew Peck gave a report from the University Council. The Council met on 12/5, and Mr. Jason Soileau, Assistant Vice President for Planning and University Architect, gave an overview of the Campus Master Plan activities thus far. Two resolutions were deliberated and voted on. A resolution previously introduced by the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (CUSP) to establish a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences was voted on and approved with minor amendments. A resolution previously introduced by CUSP to establish a new bachelor of science degree program in biomedical engineering was voted on and approved.

There was no report from the Commission on Equal Opportunities and Diversity as this committee has not met since the last CSA meeting.

There was no report from the Academic Support Committee as this committee has not met since the last CSA meeting.

### **Division of Student Affairs Update**

Dr. Patty Perillo gave an update from the Division. The Division has engaged with personnel from the Master Plan for input and feedback regarding student affairs capital planning; there will be more updates from this in the later months. The Provost is initiating organizational changes within the university particularly with regards to the new Business Engagement Center, which will focus on philanthropy and being a hub for private donations. There is continuing development at the extended campus over in Roanoke and the National Capital Region. There are many things to consider this next couple of years to ensure the student experience is maintained at an excellent level, including partnerships, housing and dining, the curriculum, inclusive access, and much more. There are also reactions from within the division regarding what is happening at the national level, including concerns for undocumented students, women, and other community, as well as specific support the division can provide for students in need.

### **Unfinished Business**

Mr. Tom Brown, Dean of Students, returned to present the bias-related incidents online reporting form. The form is now ready to be rolled out to the university community on 2/6. Due to legal concerns the reporting form will not be anonymous but the privacy of the reporting will be protected according to established protocols. Commission members raised concern on language on the form that may not be perceived by potential reporters to be ensuring their privacy protection. Mr. Chan noted that he will connect with administrators in the Graduate School to ensure the language is clear. Mr. Evan Robohm, who originally raised the need of an online form, expressed that the current proposed online form is satisfactory. Dean Brown thanked Commission members for their efforts and feedback, and noted that any further input regarding on the form can be sent to his office.

### **New Business**

Mr. Robohm presented proposed amendments to the constitution of HokiePride, while noting that the changes are mostly minor. The amendment will delineate HokiePride as an umbrella organization for the LGBT+ student community and organizations, as well as clarifying how HokiePride resources can be allocated to others.

Mr. Lamb and Ms. Gina Tamburro, Associate Director of Student Engagement and Campus Life, presented proposed changes to the SBB Policies and Procedures. The four main parts of the proposed changes are:

1. Operating cost to charity and philanthropy events can now be funded; SBB fund remains forbidden to be given directly to third party charitable organizations.
2. Food and beverages remain unfundable, with exceptions now expanded to organization who primary mission includes giving educational demos related to food.
3. Tribunal for Registered Student Organization appeals may now also be comprised of SBB members who were not present in the original funding request deliberation, in addition to proxies.
4. More flexibility is given to competition funding requests, with a block total cap at \$2,000 per year regardless of the number of competition attended.

There were concerns from Commission members who cited previous experience with SBB where food-related items (e.g. cups) not used for food (in this case for a candlelight vigil) were denied on the grounds that it was food-related. Mr. Chan and Ms. Tamburro encouraged organizations to appeal decisions made by SBB if they found fault in their reasoning. Commission members also expressed concern on the legalistic

nature of SBB Policies and Procedures. Mr. Lamb and Ms. Tamburro ensured Commission members that they will take note when moving forward with future Policies and Procedures changes, as well as that SBB members take the holistic picture of organization funding requests into account and making decisions.

Mr. Lamb and Ms. Tamburro presented a request for reallocation to the SBB budget approved by CSA last fall. CSA originally approved \$400 for SBB to purchase office and business supplies. SBB requested to reallocate \$250 of the remaining \$310.79 in that budget item to use for food and beverages for UCSO Annual Funding Request hearings on 2/17 and 2/25. Mr. Chan and Ms. Tamburro stated that, while SBB does not fund food and beverages to student organizations, SBB itself is not classified as a student organization, but rather a deliberative body that reports to CSA.

### **Announcements**

- Ms. Aliana Harrison announced that Housing and Residence Life is looking to host a student art show that would showcase artworks that highlights individual Aspirations for Student Learning. More information to is come in CSA weekly emails.
- Ms. Cameron Verano announced the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute website has been updated with a research techniques page.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled CSA meeting will be held on February 9, 2017, in the Brush Mountain Room at Squires Student Center.

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made at 5 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

Recorder: Tracy Newton