

## **Commission on Student Affairs**

Thursday, April 24, 2014

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Squires Student Center – Room 341/345

### **Present:**

Shaimaa Abdallah, Brent Ashley, Cathye Betzel, Matthew Chan, Adil Dittmer, Joseph Edens, De'Ashley Spain-designee for Morgan Esters, Jean-Luc Ford, Lauren Surface-designee for Monika Gibson, Kylie Gilbert, Jacob Grohs, Mary Ann Lewis, Patty Perillo, Greg Purdy, Caroline Sapyta, Lester Schonberger, Robert Sebek, Jason Berube-designee for Jay Tucker, Erica Wood

### **Absent:**

Maria Andrade, Claire Childress, Christiana Connolly, Noha ElSherbiny, Vaishnav Krishnan, Margaret McQuain, Peter Nettekoven, Nick Warrington

### **Guests:**

Austin Larrowe, Jaime Williams

## **I. Call to Order**

Ms. Kylie Gilbert, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. welcoming the group to today's meeting and reviewing the agenda items for discussion.

## **II. Welcome from Chair**

Ms. Gilbert noted that the agenda is again full and requested that members please raise hand for inclusion on speaker/comment list so as to maintain order.

Ms. Gilbert invited Mr. Jean-Luc Ford forward for an announcement. Mr. Ford apologized to the group for missing last week's meeting. Although he did not intend to accept the nomination for 2014-2015 CSA Chair, he regrets not being present to do so in person.

## **III. Guest Speakers**

There were no guest speakers.

## **IV. Commissions/Committees Updates**

- a. University Council Updates – Series 8000 resolutions, Hokie Handbook resolution, Dining Receipt resolution, Policy 1025 resolution

The University Council (UC) met on Monday, April 21 and had the first reading of changes to Policy 8220 Security Requirements for Events Sponsored by Student Organizations. The other three policies (8005, 8011, and 8012) were deferred until the May 5 meeting as some of the changes may be more administrative in nature rather than policy decisions. University Council did not want to set precedence voting on administrative issues.

The Hokie Handbook resolution had the first reading with no questions or concerns. Additionally, the Dining Receipt resolution was passed.

The Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD) presented the first reading of Policy 1025 resolution adding gender identity to the policy. President Steger was aware of another resolution adding gender identity and gender expression being brought forward to UC on April 28 from the Commission on Student Affairs (CSA). He requested that CEOD and CSA develop an amended joint resolution to bring to UC for the second reading on May 5.

## **V. Old Business**

- a. Addition of Student Representatives to the BOV to Governance Organizations – Brent Ashley, Erica Wood, Shaimaa Abdallah, Nick Warrington, Greg Purdy

Ms. Erica Wood entertained questions, of which there were none. Mr. Lester Schonberger motioned and Mr. Adil Dittmer seconded the move to vote. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. SGA Constitution Approval – Brent Ashley

Mr. Brent Ashley moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Matt Chan seconded. Vote was taken with none opposed and two abstentions. The rules were suspended to conduct both a reading and a vote today.

Mr. Ashley briefed the group on changes to the constitution. Mr. Ashley then moved to approve the changes. Mr. Lester Schonberger seconded. A vote was taken to approve, of which none opposed and no abstentions. The SGA Constitution was approved.

- b. Resolution for Addition to Formal Governance Structure – Brent Ashley, Erica Wood, Shaimaa Abdallah, Nick Warrington, Greg Purdy

Ms. Erica Wood highlighted the changes proposed to better reflect the formal governance structure of Virginia Tech to foster improved communication, as well as empower the student body voice, and that of faculty and staff already in place. The proposal is a formalized reflection of structure, structure in which SGA, GSA, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate are part of the governance structure diagram.

Ms. Wood noted that the resolution does not change actual procedure or process. Resolutions would still proceed through the current governance structure via the commissions. 24 of 25 peer institutions have this structure. The governing body of the students/student organizations consists of multiple entities (i.e. - not just SGA or GSA individually, but both serve an overarching role) and this is a formal reflection of such.

Questions were fielded and discussion occurred. The primary concern of the proposed governance structure was that this visual representation, as presented, could be misleading. Mr. Matt Chan suggested we perhaps change it, maintaining the representation in a different way that appears less hierarchical or filter-oriented. Although it may represent how the majority of issues pass through the structure, it gives a false sense of how they must be done. Mr. Lester Schonberger moved to amend the resolution to omit the attached addendum, retaining only the resolution, and allowing the university to determine how it might best present such graphically. Mr. Brent Ashley seconded.

Ms. Kylie Gilbert continued with a vote as the motion previously made by Mr. Schonberger. Mr. Adil Dittmer made a motion to vote on the new resolution as amended and Mr. Schonberger seconded. A vote was taken and resolution passed.

Mr. Chan moved to reinstate the rules and Mr. Greg Purdy seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The rules were reinstated.

### C. Recommendations for Future Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Ms. Gilbert referred to the document of recommendations for future chair and vice-chair elections submitted by Mr. Matt Chan. Mr. Chan highlighted the recommendations noting the he is not formally endorsing any of his proposals.

- Proposal 1 (adhere to University Council (UC) Constitution; whereby, vice chair assumes chair the following year)
- Proposal 2 (amend UC Constitution to reflect current practice)
- Proposal 3 (adopt similar commission chair policy as Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) and Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs (CSPA); making SGA's vice president the chair of CSA)

He then entertained discussion. Proposal 1 was not of interest and Proposal 2 received no discussion. Proposal 3 brought about some discussion related to how while it mimics that of other commissions, CSA has unique qualities making it difficult to implement in some way. Another comment advocated that experience is an important factor for a chair position on CSA.

Discussion continued and additional proposals, or adaptations thereof, were presented. Variations include the desired impartiality of the chair and the possible addition of another CSA member.

- Impartial chair, sit in rep for org of chair
- Voting chair, impartial rep to speak for chair org
- Impartial chair, no rep for chair org

Ms. Erica Wood suggested conducting elections for vice chair in the fall as was done last year, but with a small working group taking these recommendations and others forward to bring forth vetted recommendation(s) and/or proposal(s) for vote and implementation in fall semester.

Ms. Gilbert will pass on all recommendations/proposals to Mr. Joseph Edens, 2014-15 CSA chair. Additional recommendations should be emailed to Ms. Gilbert before the end of exams. The vice chair election will be held in the fall.

## **VII. Announcements**

Dr. Patty Perillo announced a final CSA gathering next Thursday, May 1, 3:30-5:00pm in Jamestown Room in Squires. The group will celebrate and reflect on the year together. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Dr. Mary Ann Lewis thanked Kylie Gilbert for her leadership this year.

Ms. Kylie Gilbert thanked Mr. Lester Schonberger for his leadership this year.

Ms. De'Ashley Spain announced the Black Organizations Council will have a meet and greet with the executive board for next year.

Ms. Erica Wood mentioned there is a VT Voice Town Hall Forum/Academic Affairs Forum on Tuesday, April 29, 6:00-8:00pm in Old Dominion Ballroom in Squires.

Ms. Shaimaa Abdallah thanked CSA for her time and involvement as she has participated in the governance process over recent years.

Ms. Gilbert thanked the CSA for their commitment, for the additional meetings, and for the resolutions passed, and asked members to reflect on the impact that their presence will have on future students.

Ms. Maria Andrade reminded the group of the International Street Fair on Sunday, April 27.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

With no further announcements or business, Ms. Kylie Gilbert, chair, entertained a motion to adjourn; Mr. Greg Purdy motioned and Ms. Erica Wood seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.