

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, September 18, 2014

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Squires Student Center – Brush Mountain Room

Present:

Susan Anderson, Luke Carroll, Jackie Fisher-designee for CJ Caudill, Matthew Chan, Claire Childress, Alicia Cohen, Rudney Danquah, Joseph Edens, Noha Elsherbiny, Jean-Luc Ford, Ashley Francis, Austin Larrowe, Elizabeth Lazor, Mary Ann Lewis, Rick Ferraro-on behalf of Patty Perillo, Ethan Poole, Greg Purdy, Lester Schonberger, Robert Sebek, Jamaica Sykes, Ricardo Zalles Reyes, Brian Tran, Eric Wetzel

Absent:

Cathye Betzel, Andrew George, Monika Gibson

Guests:

Emily Schwarting, Javier Tibau, Tricia Smith, Marin Riegger

I. Call to Order

Mr. Lester Schonberger, vice 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. Mr. Schonberger advised Mr. Joe Edens, chair, will arrive around 4:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Presentations

a. Campus Childcare Panel: Ms. Vanessa Tibau, Mr. Javier Tibau, and Ms. Emily Schwarting

Mr. Schonberger introduced the panel, Ms. Emily Schwarting and Mr. Javier Tibau (Ms. Vanessa Tibau was not present), and asked each panelist to share some information about themselves with the commission.

Ms. Schwarting is a senior majoring in political science. She has a 3½ year old son. After a three year wait, her son is now enrolled at Rainbow Riders. She wrote a letter to the Collegiate Times about Virginia Tech offering subsidized child care for its faculty, staff, and students.

Mr. Tibau and his wife are from South America. He is a PhD student majoring in Computer Science & Application.

Questions and comments were fielded and discussion occurred. When asked about the main concern with child care, Ms. Schwarting stated child care providers are underpaid, undervalued, and have no benefits. Mr. Tibau noted that child care is not affordable and getting assistance with graduate housing is difficult.

Other concerns included the quality of child care offered at some facilities is low, there is a need for extended business hours, federal aid is not available to grad students, and work life grant is available to undergrad students but not grad students.

The question was asked, “Where do we go from here?” A suggestion was made to form a subcommittee. The following volunteered to be members of the child care subcommittee: Ms. Noha Elsherbiny, Mr. Matt Chan, Ms. Jackie Fisher, Ms. Ashley Francis, Ms. Sapna Singh, and Mr. Greg Purdy, chair. The subcommittee will meet to identify and review policies related to child care and reach out to Marin Riegger to learn about the child care work she’s pursuing to avoid duplication of efforts.

A motion was entertained and passed to move unfinished business ahead of updates.

IV. Commissions/Committees Updates

a. Joe/Lester: Update on DSA Health and Wellness Initiatives

Ms. Ashley Francis provided an update and mentioned several topics presented during the constituency report including graduate engagement, affordable child care and university support, increasing comprehensive fees, and strategic planning of campus parking.

During his constituency report, Mr. Austin Larowe emphasized the impact of 6400 new Hokies on campus, partnership with Gallup and the strengths assessment tool being made available to all students, faculty, and staff, and diversity and inclusion initiatives continue to gain momentum.

Other updates include, the Virginia Tech Principles of Community were reaffirmed, a resolution to amend Policy 1025: Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy was approved, and a resolution to the South Recreation Field was approved.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Vice Chair Elections

A motion was entertained and passed to reopen nominations.

Jean-Luc Ford asked the commission to remove him from the nominations and the commission complied.

Each candidate (Mr. Lester Schonberger and Mr. Luke Carroll) was given the opportunity to provide a 2-minute introductory address to the CSA membership. The membership then posed a question to each nominee.

Following the candidates' introductory address and question response, the commission went into closed deliberation and vote. After several minutes of discussion and advocating on behalf of nominees, a motion was entertained, moved, seconded, and made to end discussion and take a vote. The voting commenced. Mr. Lester Schonberger was the successful nominee elected as the 2014-15 Vice Chair for the Commission on Student Affairs.

A motion was entertained and passed to extend the meeting and adjourn at 5:15pm.

b. Parliamentarian Elections

A motion was entertained and passed to reopen nominations.

Mr. Luke Carroll was nominated for parliamentarian; Mr. Carroll accepted.

Each candidate (Mr. Matt Chan and Mr. Luke Carroll) was given the opportunity to provide a 2-minute introductory address to the CSA membership. The membership then posed a question to each nominee.

Following the candidates' introductory address and question response, the commission went into closed deliberation and vote. After several minutes of discussion and advocating on behalf of nominees, a motion was entertained, moved, seconded, and made to end discussion and take a vote. The voting commenced. Mr. Luke Carroll was the successful nominee elected as the 2014-15 Parliamentarian for the Commission on Student Affairs.

c. Secretary Elections

The opportunity was offered to open nominations again; however, no one responded.

The candidate (Ms. Jamaica Sykes) was given the opportunity to provide a 2-minute introductory address to the CSA membership. The membership then posed a question to the nominee.

A motion was entertained and passed to forgo ballot voting for voice voting. A vote was taken, and with a majority vote, Ms. Jamaica Sykes was elected as the 2014-15 Secretary for the Commission on Student Affairs.

VI. New Business

Dr. Rick Ferraro met with the Task Force for a Healthier Virginia Tech. He stated some of the more important issues that have been discussed/resolved are healthier vending options and a non-smoking campus.

The task force is looking for additional students to become members and asked for volunteers from the commission. Mr. Austin Larrowe volunteered. Dr. Ferraro stated if any other students would like to volunteer, he would welcome his/her involvement. The commitment is 1½ hours on Wednesdays and the task force meets every two weeks.

VII. Announcements

Mr. Joe Edens requested announcements be emailed to him.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further announcements or business, Mr. Joe Edens, chair, entertained a motion to adjourn; Mr. Greg Purdy motioned and Mr. Austin Larrowe seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.