

Commission on Student Affairs
Thursday, December 5, 2013
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Squires Student Center – Brush Mountain Room

Present:

Shaimaa Abdallah, Maria Andrade, Brent Ashley, Adil Dittmer-designee for Chris Atkins, Cathye Betzel, Claire Childress, Jean-Luc Ford, Lauren Surface- designee for Monika Gibson, Kylie Gilbert, Jacob Grohs, Vaishnav Krishnan-designee for Andy Hsu, Mary Ann Lewis, Jason Conder-designee for Peter Nettekoven, Patty Perillo, Greg Purdy, Caroline Sapyta, Robert Sebek, Lester Schonberger, Emma Smith, Roy Abernathy-designee for Erica Wood

Absent:

Matthew Chan, Noha ElSherbiny, Morgan Esters, Margaret McQuain, Jay Tucker, Nick Warrington

Guests: Ali Cross, Debbie Day, Kelly Griffin

I. Call to Order

Ms. Kylie Gilbert, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. welcoming the group to today's meeting and reviewing the agenda items for discussion. The order of agenda items for discussion was changed slightly, beginning with new business and then commissions/committees updates.

II. Commissions/Committees Updates

a. **Non-Traditional Student Support Working Committee**—Mr. Lester Schonberger

Mr. Schonberger asked for comments from the group regarding the questions presented in the previous meeting minutes from Dining Services. There were no comments.

b. **Principles of Community Working Committee**—Mr. Chris Atkins

Mr. Adil Dittmer will replace Mr. Atkins. Ms. Gilbert mentioned inviting Laura Rugless from Virginia Tech's Office of Equity and Access to discuss phrasing, intent, and desired changes pertaining to issues of gender identity and Policy 1025. Ms. Caroline Sapyta plans to meet with Ms. Rugless next month and possibly an alumnus and representative (first name: Eli) who works with NRV Community Services, as he has personal experience and insight to offer. Caroline will lead this working committee going forward.

c. **Series 8000 Policies Working Committee/Budget Board Working Committee**—Mr. Lester Schonberger

The committee reviewed and suggested updates to series 8000 policies. The suggestions will go to DSA's policy review committee and then their thoughts, feedback, and input will be routed back to the CSA for review.

The committee's next focus will be on budget board process. The question was asked if a representative from the budget board could be present at a meeting next semester. Ms. Gilbert advised she would check on that.

Recommendations for the Hokie handbook will also be discussed.

d. **Policy 91 Working Committee**—Ms. De'Ashley Spain

The CSA closed this committee at the last meeting, November 14, 2013.

III. Old Business

A call was made for old business and there were no comments.

IV. New Business

a. Dining Receipts Resolution – Mr. Brent Ashley

Mr. Ashley stated the revised dining receipts resolution was passed through SGA. He discovered that JMU has a dining program that utilizes the non-receipt procedure and passed along that information to Ms. Frances Keene, Chief of Operations and Deputy to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. The first reading of the revised dining receipt legislation will occur at first meeting of the spring semester.

b. CSA's Role in April 16th Remembrance Events

Dr. Perillo began by stating April 16 is part of our university's history. People have different reactions and responses related to this event. Dialogue focused on the role CSA might play in the annual Remembrance events related specifically to student engagement and involvement. It was indicated as a reminder that CSA is a policy group, not a planning or programming group, which is an important designation related to this discussion.

Ms. Debbie Day from Alumni Relations and Ms. Kelly Griffin from the Office of Recovery and Support were present to discuss their ideas regarding CSA and the annual Remembrance events. Kelly provided historical background on the student planning committee and the various events and actions taken over the years.

Debbie stated that President Steger's vision was to get alumni relations involved because they engage families and visit families, as well as maintain a connection in the post-student years with alumni in general. So, from the start, they had a broad representation of students and they wanted to be sure the right precedent was set. The ultimate desire of the provost and from a historical perspective is the desire to follow the "will" of the students. As the university continues to move forward in remembrance planning and chronologically further away from the actual events of 2007, planning needs to shift toward long-term thinking with acknowledgment of precedent setting and other significant considerations. In causal discussions, the concept of CSA serving as this "sounding board" emerged because most organizations are represented here. It's important to note that families of the deceased and injured also continue to play a role and provide feedback, so we want to be sure we're doing the right thing. The university communicates with families prior to taking action and Ms. Griffin indicated that the families should always be first to know regarding any decisions made. There is an implementation team/planning group that would benefit by having a representative from the CSA.

Ms. Gilbert asked for comments and questions about the information just presented. The members of CSA discussed, and ultimately thought Order of the Gavel might be better suited in this role. The possibility of creating a sub-committee within Order of the Gavel would also be an option. Other groups, such as dean of students and clergy also offering advising, so the experiences of those who were here (as many current students were not) are still represented. Several CSA members noted that the education aspect of remembrance events should not be overlooked, as well as the opportunity to reflect. Several event ideas and suggestions beyond those known (vigil, run in remembrance, etc.) include a speaker, service projects, and "tribute museum," but each offers unique considerations and logistical planning. As an example, there are more than 90,000 items archived that were received post-April 16. It's important to find a location to display select items in a sensitive and educational manner as they tell a story and show the support we received, but display of such has many considerations. While it was decided that Order of the Gavel was the better group for long term discussion, CSA agreed to continue the discussion on the 3.2 Run for Remembrance so as to offer student feedback on some initial ideas and planning prior to the winter break.

c. 3.2 Run for Remembrance

Ms. Ali Cross distributed handouts of three t-shirt design options and an overhead view of the pre-race line up on the Drillfield. A concern of students is that traditions would not continue as the years pass by and students move on. She stated anytime Rec Sports acts on something, like the run, they will make sure it works with tradition so as to make students comfortable. But they do need students to volunteer to make that happen. Some traditions will be changing in 2014, both by design and by demand. No longer will a balloon release start be possible due to environmental concerns. They are considering replacing the balloon release with a memorable start to create a party-like environment that captures respect, remembrance, and community. One suggestion is a bell ringing per each of waves (grouping of chimes, not 32 individual). While releasing 5,000 balloons is not allowable, releasing 32 might be. Additional ideas include a dove/pigeon or butterfly release, or the combination of bells/balloons. Burruss bell tower is operational and also a possibility. However, it was important to note that there is an historical sensitivity/perspective of overpowering emotion associated with the ringing of bells, especially 32 individual chimes.

The three t-shirt design options were discussed and feedback provided.

Ms. Cross mentioned there are many groups that are no longer on campus yet hold events elsewhere (alumni chapters, groups of friends in common geographical locations, etc.) who request t-shirts/bibs for their events. CSA discussed the pros and cons of these non-campus remembrance events and their desire to be associated with what is happening on campus. While many were agreeable with sharing t-shirts/bibs, there were also some concerns. A concern for the safety of those off-campus events was expressed, but the ability for alumni to participate—wherever they may be—is an important community-building opportunity. There are cost considerations as well; no money can be exchanged. The ultimate recommendation from CSA was that a set of guidelines and protocol for what is done on the campus and off the campus should be considered.

i. **Guest Speakers:** Ali Cross, Debbie Day, Kelly Griffin

II. Announcements

- Adil Dittmer is the new president of IFC and Greek Council representative (replacing Chris Atkins)
- Chris Atkins served as parliamentarian; Lester Schonberger will assume the role of parliamentarian in his position as Vice Chair
- Staff Senate has invited Sherwood Wilson to discuss outsourcing on December 19 at noon at the North End Center. Of interest to CSA is the outsourcing of housekeeping and grounds staff where cleaning/maintenance would be done by a 3rd party. Inattention to detail (toilet paper supply), cleanliness, theft concerns, etc. have been presented. Housekeeping and maintenance in housing and res life, McComas, etc.—majority/entirety of DSA—are employed staff, not outsourced. This issue is a significant concern amongst faculty and staff; therefore, the awareness and input from students is also important.
- Vaishnav Krishnan (nickname: V) introduced himself. V is treasurer for AASU and filling in for Andy Hsu.
- Peter Nettekoven will return spring semester to represent VTCC.
- Technical Writing English class is conducting a review of DSA website (teacher is Tracy Gardner). Dr. Perillo desires to hear the student recommendations and ideas that come from this. DSA leadership would enjoy hearing about this, as well as DSA Communications and Innovative Technologies.
- Spring semester retreat will occur in conjunction with an extended first meeting on January 30 from 3:00-8:00 pm (tentative times) in 116 Burruss. An agenda is being considered and drafted and will be shared as soon as possible. Representatives are welcome if staff cannot attend. Delegate meeting of GSA (5:30-7:00pm) will negate the early departure of Greg Purdy and Shaimaa Abdallah.

- Kylie works for the Library and is seeking interested students to serve on a Library Student Advisory Board. There is a \$25K budget for student-focused programming. Recruitment of about 20 students is underway. Interested students will need to submit a short application. Additional information will be distributed with the minutes (see below). Feel free to share with constituencies.

- "Do you have opinions about the Virginia Tech Library? Are there things that you would like to see more of? Things you'd want to change?"

Apply to join the inaugural Library Student Advisory Board so you can give feedback on library programs, services, web pages, and renovations. We are currently seeking twenty students (undergraduate and graduate) to help envision future directions of the library. Monthly meetings will begin February 2014. More info: <http://www.lib.vt.edu/libnews/2013/2013-12-22.html>"

- On behalf of Erica Wood, Kylie is requesting feedback to a survey related to a study abroad scholarship fund (see below)...

- "Undergraduates- please fill out this survey so that we can better gauge student opinions on the creation of a study abroad scholarship fund. This would occur either by raising tuition or reallocating dollars. Direct questions to Erica Wood, at ewood1@vt.edu.

<https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1386596129945>"

III. Adjournment

- a. With no further announcements or business, Ms. Kylie Gilbert, chair, entertained a motion to adjourn; Mr. Greg Purdy made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Lester Schonberger. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.