

Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs
September 14, 2023
3:30pm
CID, Multipurpose Room (Room 104)

Present: Tristan Southerland (presiding), Kim O'Rorke, Tamara Cherry-Clarke, Olivia Batten, Alix Guynn, Lauren Surface, Aarav Parikh, Yohan Sequeira, Delia Alcorn, Andrea Silva, Sarah (SJ) Greger, Andrew Gunsch, Kat Nelson, Katelyn Steide, Mantu Hudait, AJ Bass

Absent with Notice:

Absent: Siri Rao, Nick Whitesell, Amanda Talbott, Alize Ashraf, Sophie Thompsen

Guests: O'Brian Martin, April Myers

Tristan Southerland called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda by adding under New Business the CUSA working group on Housing and Residence Life. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the amended agenda. The motion carried.

2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 20th, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Old Business

- None

4. Welcome and Remarks from the Chair

- Introduction
- Charge of the Commission for the 2023-2024 Academic Year Charge: To study, formulate, and recommend to the Undergraduate Student Senate policies and procedures pertaining to the undergraduate student experience at Virginia Tech. Areas for consideration include undergraduate student wellbeing, inclusion, and morale; undergraduate student relations with peers, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni, and the community; policy matters related to undergraduate student conduct; undergraduate student organizations, social life, and recreation; employment, placement, and counseling; and residential and campus life, health, safety, and quality of undergraduate student related services.
- CUSA 2023-2024 Work Plan

5. New Business

- CUSA working group on Housing and Residence Life
 - Tristan Southerland outlined the proposed membership of the group and further elaborated the reason for the creation of the group. See attachment.
 - Resident Hall Federation (RHF), a UCSO that represented students who live on campus, has been dissolved. The working group was created to ensure there is a group within the

governance system to review and advocate for policy changes on matters relating to housing and residence life for undergraduate students living on and off campus.

- James Bridgeforth proposed the group name be changed to Residential Well Being. The proposal was accepted.
- Tristan Southerland highlighted the creation of new positions within the USS for Residential Well Being Senators and Living Learning Program Senators. Responsibilities and expectations for the positions are being finalized with these offices and the USS but, there will be a special election to fill these roles this Fall semester.

6. Acceptance and Posting of Committee Reports and/or Minutes

- None

7. Presentation(s)

- None

8. Other Items-

- None

9. Announcements-

- Election timeline and process for Academic Support Committee Appointment from CUSA
 - The charge of this committee is to systematically review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to academic support, including the university calendar, scheduling and registration, scholarships and financial aid, classroom management, and summer school.
 - The process for electing a student representative will consist of one week for undergraduate students who sit on CUSA to express interest and intent to be appointed to the committee to the CUSA Chair. At the next CUSA meeting, a vote will be held to confirm the member to be elected to the committee.
- Election timeline and process for Vice Chair of the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs
 - The Vice Chair responsibilities will include coordinating feedback between the Chair and members of the committee, confirming quorum, assisting with the development of the agenda, and helping with parliamentary procedure.
 - The process for electing a student representative will consist of one week for undergraduate students who sit on CUSA to express interest and intent to be appointed to the committee to the CUSA Chair. At the next CUSA meeting, a vote will be held to confirm the Vice Chair of CUSA.
- Dr. James Bridgeforth requested to hear discussion on issues or concerns that members of CUSA are interested in working on. This information will be utilized to organize presenters at CUSA, to share with constituents, and make policy change recommendations.
 - Residential Well Being Student Leaders – The responsibilities of their positions have shifted, and they have expressed concern with the level of their compensation. A topic for CUSA could be to either help with examining compensation level or help with discussing how the workload can be shared between the student leaders and the residential well-being staff.
 - AJ Bass is working on outreach to UCSOs and other student groups to learn about students' experience with the current process for absence verification for religious holidays.
 - Delia Alcorn shared that she is working to have SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Exam) exams available on campus. She is currently preparing a report and may bring this to USS or CUSA soon.
 - Yohan Sequeria shared that GPSS is also working on a housing study plan and affordable housing for graduate students. They are also looking for mechanisms to hold individuals who are harassing others accountable. This may be something presented to CUSA in the future.

- Dr. Mantu Hudait requested for any items to be shared with the Faculty Senate President for a meeting on the 22nd to be submitted to him.
- The Graduate & Professional School Fair will take place on Monday, Oct 2nd from 11-3 in Student Squires
- The Undergraduate Student Senate Elections are taking place September 18th – 24th.

10. Adjournment-

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 pm