

# MINUTES

## Commission on Student Affairs

February 6, 2020

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Brush Mountain - All, Squires Student Center

**Present:** Collin Shelton, Victoria Dashevsky, Heather Wagoner, Terri Pecora, Frank Shushok, Lauren Surface, Tara Frank, Jessica Nguen, Phoebe Gregg, Kabyl Oxikbayev, Blake Barnhill, Irene Baron, Adil Sageer, Ryan Foley, Spencer Hamilton, Kelli Karcher, Chapman Pendery

**Absent:** Lily Xie, Kayla Winbush, Madelynn Todd, Ginai Seabron, Grant Bommer, Gregory Klatt, Susan Anderson, Alexis Hruby, Colie Touzel, Hani Awni, Maruf Hoque, Abdul-Rahman Sanuri, Rhoda Azeze, Sammy Bales, Jonathon Poff, Jes Davis, Jassi Chahal, Monica Hunter

Collin Shelton called the meeting to order at 3:37pm. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions (Commissioners)

2. Approval of Agenda (Collin Shelton)

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

3. University Council and Commission Updates

a. University Council (Collin Shelton & Blake Barnhill)

Congratulations to JSU, MSU, and other religious organizations who got their piece of legislation passed for religious accommodations.

Resolution to create a new school of Communications and Designs passed unanimously.

First reading of the Resolution to give AP Faculty/Staff 16 hours of leave for Community Service a year.

Resolution to create an AP Faculty Senate.

Two CS meters were proposed.

Update to Presidents Commission on Governance.

Question was asked...“What is AP Faculty?” Administrative and Professional Faculty that don’t have full teaching jobs, and are not staff workers.

b. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (Collin Shelton)

CSA Rep needed to attend these meetings:

Tuesday, February 25	1:30 to 3:00 p.m.	130 Burruss Hall
Tuesday, March 17	1:30 to 3:00 p.m.	130 Burruss Hall
Tuesday, April 21	1:30 to 3:00 p.m.	130 Burruss Hall
Tuesday, May 19	1:30 to 3:00 p.m.	130 Burruss Hall

Question posed if anyone is available at these times and is interested in going? Let Collin know if you are interested in representing CSA by attending.

c. Academic Support Committee (Collin Shelton)

Chairman of that committee said they don't plan to meet unless CUSP gives them something to investigate or meet on. They have nothing now, but will let CSA know if something comes up.

#### 4. Old Business

a. IFC Constitution (Spencer Hamilton & Commissioners)

Did not have quorum at previous meeting and therefore, this will be the first reading.

Edits made constitution were all grammatical and formatting. It was noted that commas don't matter as much as content.

Question was asked about having any discussion about the Constitution?

Motion was made, and seconded, to end the discussion. The motion carried.

#### 5. New Business

a. Panhellenic Council Bylaws (Sammy Bales & Commissioners)

No one has had a chance to review. Motion was made, and seconded, to table discussion for the next meeting. The motion carried.

b. Hokie Pride Constitution (Phoebe Gregg & Commissioners)

Phoebe highlighted and changed text color of all edits made to the constitution which had been uploaded to the Google Drive and shared with CSA members for review.

Detailed discussion was had regarding all changes and revisions.

Motion was made, and seconded, to end the discussion. The motion carried. Second reading will take place at the next meeting.

## 6. Announcements & Updates

### a. Student Affairs (Dr. Heather Wagoner)

- Major Venue Advance Reservations begin on Monday, February 10 for dates from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. If your organization did not receive this information, please email [eventservices@vt.edu](mailto:eventservices@vt.edu).

There has been an incredible uptick in the use of our major venues such as Commonwealth Ballroom, Colonial Hall, Haymarket, GLC Auditorium, GLC Multipurpose Room, Burruss Auditorium, Drillfield, etc. Chances are you won't get a major venue for your event if you do not get your request submitted during Advance Res. Many of you could be affected, so remember this is on a first come, first serve basis. Submit your time-stamped requests through GobblerConnect:

<https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/submitter/form/start/373159>

- Dean of Students Office has a great program director leading a new program called Interfaith Initiatives. This program aims to promote constructive dialogue and build relationships across lines of difference, acknowledging the diversity of religious and non-religious identities on campus. More info and full list of events can be found on the DOS website: <https://www.dos.vt.edu/interfaith.html>

If you are interested in dialoguing with others to see what you could learn from different perspectives, consider attending the "Interfaith Together Dinner" which is set for Thursday, February 20 from 5:30pm to 7pm in Owens Ballroom. If interested, you can RSVP here: [www.dos.vt.edu/interfaithdinner](http://www.dos.vt.edu/interfaithdinner) and enjoy a good meal!

- Another interesting initiative - Andrew Pregnall recently received the Marshall Scholarship and graduated in December. Before heading off for his Marshall Scholarship Frank Shushock hired him for the semester as his research associate. Larger initiative pertaining to Loneliness in college students. He came and spoke with Student Affairs Leadership Team and Order of the Gavel. Would love for him to come and talk to you all here if you are interested.

VT has been doing ongoing studies asking students...have you felt very lonely in the last year? 60% would say yes and 30% would say they have felt this way in the last 2 weeks. If interested in having Andrew come to speak to the group his email is: [amp1106@vt.edu](mailto:amp1106@vt.edu).

### b. Student Government Association (Adil Sageer)

- Commission on Governance met last week, will meet next Friday, and will continue to meet biweekly for the rest of the semester. They went over hypothetical structure for the University Governance.
- VP for Student Affairs Search Update
  - Adil is the Undergrad Rep for the Search Committee, as well as, the Diversity Advocate for the VPSA search
  - First round of interviews (8 candidates) will be held in DC February 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Three candidates will be chosen for on-campus interviews
  - First candidate is scheduled to be on campus on Friday, February 24.
  - Heather can get info regarding three on-campus candidates to share once chosen.

- Each candidate will be giving a presentation to which students will be invited and encouraged to attend. Heather will forward on information regarding the three on-campus interviews to be shared with the committee when it becomes available.
- Long discussion was had regarding the top qualities and values the committee would like to see in the Vice President for Student Affairs candidate.
  - Diversity advocate
  - Value to open office hours
  - Values the students and put students first
  - Communicates well with students
  - Encourages student participation and being actively involved in coming to organized event.
  - Active involvement
  - Our relationship with Students and Blacksburg in general, advocate for both sides, someone to be a mediator
  - Someone to bridge the gap with Graduate students

If anyone has anything else they want to share or a personal story, please email Adil or feel free to stop by during SGA office hours in 123 Squires Student Center.

Discussion was had on the list of “Top Three Priorities of the VPSA” that was discussed at the prior meeting – Victoria can send the excel sheet to Adil. However, for those that were not at the last meeting, or had to leave early – the floor was open for members voices to be heard. Items discussed were:

- Importance of accessibility and disability
- Mental health generally, loneliness more specifically
- Making sure the infrastructure is present prior to getting new students (re: residential living space on and off campus)
- Student happiness

Collin asked Frank if he knew the # students accepted for the upcoming year: 6675 is the target

In-depth discussion was had regarding the logistics of how Admissions actually works.

Collin asked when they are considering the amount of incoming students that their target goal is - are they thinking about the 4 years that most students stay here and live off campus? Or are they taking into account that off campus housing and on campus housing diminishes every year we bring in more and more students.

Frank recommended Juan Espinoza to come speak to CSA about Enrollment Management and how they are thinking about the future. Frank also offered to send over the list of all off-campus building projects going on right now to CSA. To see the data is really important and Juan can show you that. That’s the kind of thing that will help CSA have a conversation about policy and about practice after you’ve prepared yourself with the evident data.

Heather shared Off-Campus Housing has a lot of helpful information as well and is constantly monitoring the situation. What we know right now is that three apartments/management companies that still have availability. She is happy to bring additional information forward if that is something that is of interest.

Quality of buildings. Talk to the students, staff and faculty who will be using the buildings. What architectures/engineers think we need is not what students need. Not lit well enough to draw and such. Reach

out to the students...ask the Civil Engineer students who are going to be housed here...what do you think this is important. They are small things but have a huge impact. For example....there are not enough power outlets.

Economics – someone who has an understanding of: budgets, finance, capabilities and policy vs. reality. Intentions verses intentionality; policy verses reality and economics.

Adil asks if anyone has any personal stories to share about a very positive, or very negative area of student affairs to please email him. Include what you want to see improved and what you think is good that should be continued.

Collin stated he would like to see better communication between sponsoring departments and their respective UCSO's. So, with SECL, SGA, HokiePRIDE, and all the cultural organizations. Housing and Residence Life with RHF, Corps of Cadets, and Fraternity and Sorority Life (Greek life in General). Better communication needed. Better transparency. How to improve employee happiness between who wants to be here and who wants to stay here. Advisor consistency will in turn make student organizations stronger in three or four years.

- c. Graduate Student Assembly (Hani Awni)
  - o Delegate meeting today
  - o Lunch with Dr. DePauw was also held today

d. Board of Visitors Representatives (Madelynn Todd & Ginai Seabron)  
No updates to share.

- e. Other, etc. (Commissioners)

Ryan started a discussion regarding the upcoming, mandatory Military Ball that has angered a lot of Corps members. Cost for seniors is \$40 ticket plus banquet, and all other students is \$30 ticket.

What is going around, is that students are angry about is that if students don't purchase a ticket, they will have to work the Military Ball until midnight. Twenty-five students have come to Ryan today complaining. He went onto explain details regarding his own personal experience from last year.

One of the cadets, who is also a police officer, gathered a list of Articles of constitution Labor and US code, has highlighted everything, and put his comments under it, showing that this violates a total of seven different felonies.

As a civilian, but yet tied to the Corps, Victoria shared her experience of numerous people she has heard from, that are indeed heated over this. She went onto say she even made some phone calls prior to the CSA meeting to ensure these weren't just random allegations.

Collin asked Ryan what his intention and hope for bringing this to CSA was. Ryan shared that he brought it forth, as more of an announcement, that their goal is to handle it internally. It was recommended that they speak to someone in Student Legal Services to get their opinion on it.

Phoebe asked Frank if he knew how the University is going about updating the base infrastructure that falls under Student Affairs due to the effects of such a large influx of students. Examples given were: Can't cut through, or past McBride; Shear number of students on the pathways are impassible, not even usable; Multiple places on campus, even before this, were in need of repair and updating. With the significantly higher number of students, than was necessarily expected, is more money being put into the infrastructure?

Frank shared that Student Affairs alone, over the next ten years, has a billion dollars of construction projects rolling, that are in motion, to which got here faster than they were ready for it. Frank also elaborated about various large scale up and coming projects happening in the near future.

Phoebe went onto say, not just the buildings, but more so the buses. As there are days you simply cannot get on the bus due to the increased number of students. As someone who rides her bike, she sometimes has to make spur of the moment dangerous decisions, as there are not accessible. In addition, Phoebe has heard from friends on the Disability Caucus that they often run into problems where they literally cannot make it to class on time consistently, because the infrastructure some places on this campus is so bad. Is any of the money being spent annually going toward updating the sidewalks or the ADA routes?

Frank shared the fact that five buses have recently been purchased, but yet still have to be built. He and Heather encouraged CSA to reach out to some important key people to bring into future meetings so they can dialogue about things like infrastructure. For example, the Chief Facilities Officer and the Chief Architect, who are monitoring the Master Plan. Bringing them here will enable you to get the facts, share your concerns, and offer feedback. He went onto say that a strong student governance voice, when you have a solid coalition of issues that are important to you, help make the university respond to student needs.

Heather spoke about the importance of bringing resources together, possibly at different levels, in different combinations. Maybe even in the form of a trifecta to discuss...How are you all thinking together, and how can we think with you, together. Otherwise, having ongoing siloed discussions likely won't get you anywhere. When resources are brought together, share with them what you are seeing as real problems, that you are experiencing every day.

It was proposed to invite key players to future meeting(s) to share a 15-minute presentation of current initiatives going on around campus. Followed by a 15-minute discussion/Q&A after the presentation. Frank recommended they get the facts, and have a full understanding and awareness regarding cost, regarding finance, and regarding the future plans. He went onto say the more you educate yourself, the more you can have good dialogue, that one coherent student voice can certainly help in guiding decisions. Both Frank and Heather said they will share names of individuals with the committee as to whom they can reach out to.

Victoria shared an announcement regarding Hillel and their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trip to Israel. Cost to fly is \$0, or free. If interested, reach out and she can send you the sign-up link. It will be at your expense to get yourself to JFK, but this is by far the cheapest way to travel out of the country. About 80% of food is also covered. They would like to see more applications, so share with your friends.

RHF is beginning Executive Board Elections.

Recruitment for IFC has already begun and bids go out this coming Monday night.

Encourage students to run for Board of Visitors; Grad and UnderGrad reps.

Lauren shared an update from the Graduate School. They are currently hiring for GLC Fellows, a unique position between Housing and Residence Life and the Graduate School. You have to live at the GLC, serve in a Resident Advisor role, and plan events for Grad students as a whole, not just your residents.

Undergrads looking for a job are encouraged to apply. This is not an assistantship, but you do get your room for free, a monthly stipend, and one half of your instate tuition is paid.

## 7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:40pm.

Reminder: Next CSA meeting is Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – 3:30pm to 5:00pm