

MINUTES

Commission on Student Affairs
University Council, Virginia Tech
April 18, 2019
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Brush Mountain, Squires Student Center

Present: John Livingston, Saron Minasie, Jes Davis, Tara Frank, Susan Anderson, Gregory Klatt, Ariana Labat, Rebecca Forest, Billy Lin, Sam Felber, Caed Cunningham, Clara Wynne, Lauren Surface, Angela Simmons, Rachel Iwicki

Absent: Ruofan Shen, Collin Shelton, Joe Clark, Sebastian Andrade, Alexis Hruby, Marc Lewis, Clayton Ashe, Sebastian Murillo, Abdul-Rahman Sanuri, Patty Perillo, Lotus Wang,

Present via Zoom: Samantha Fried, Terri Pecora, Colie Touzel, Jonathon Poff, Claire Oliveros

Guests: Gina Tamburro, Eryn Peters

John Livingston called the meeting to order at 3:32pm. A quorum was present.

1. **Introductions & Attendance** (John Allen Livingston)

2. **Approval of Agenda** (John Allen Livingston)

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

No new or old business so next meeting scheduled for April 25th is canceled and therefore this is the last meeting of the semester.

3. **University Council and Commission Updates**

A. **University Council** (*John Allen Livingston*)

- Resolutions: Faculty Senate changed their constitution, two new graduate and undergraduate degrees
- A presentation by Chris Wise on Mental Health Task Force summary/findings and recommendations.
- Full report is located in the team drive for your review.
- Rachel can provide more information about this if folks have questions.

B. **Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity** (*Elysia Budu*)

- No updates to report

C. Academic Support Committee (*John Allen Livingston*)

- No updates to report
- Hopefully they will be up and running in the fall semester

4. Old Business

SBB Appropriations Strategy – Second Reading (*Gina Tamburro*)

- Please refer to the handouts that were provided at the 4/4 meeting. These are also located in the CSA Team Drive under the 4/4 folder.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve SBB Appropriations Strategy. The motion carried.

5. New Business

Student Budget Board Policy Changes (*Eryn Peters*)

This wasn't printed out but has been uploaded to the team drive.

Eryn spoke in detail about the Exceeded Absence Allowance

- Exceeded Absence Allowance
 - If an organization has more than two (2) absences per semester, ~~they will forfeit their seat on SBB for the current academic year, thus forfeiting their ability to apply for Annual Funding for the next academic year~~ they will incur a 1% cut to the following academic year's Annual Funding request, per absence, over the allotted two (2).
 - Removal of an organization from SBB due to excessive absence will be considered at the discretion of SBB.
 - A recommendation would be made to CSA; with that body having final approval.
 - Notification will be given to the organization prior to consideration for removal.
 - An organization who has been removed from SBB submit a letter to appeal to CSA.

John asked Eryn to explain the process how these changes were thought up and came about. Eryn stated a lot of the requested revisions in the document were things that came up throughout the year and there was not related to it in the policy. Or it was in the policy but yet something didn't seem quite right or the wording was a little bit off.

John stated for a point of clarification that some student organizations are not actively involved with the SBB process or have representatives that may not keep up with it and may worry about the implementation strategy of this policy...can you speak to that?

Eryn spoke in depth about emails in advance, who the emails would go to which is the president and the advisor, as well as how the process will be implemented.

Motion was made to approve the SBB Policy and was seconded.

Discussion to be had on the motion?

Motion made to amend the line that orgs will incur a 10% cut and was seconded. The motion carried that the new increase will be 10%.

Motion made and seconded to approve the SBB Policy, with the amendment that the 1% cut changes to 10%. The motion carried.

Homecoming Board Constitution

- Located in the team drive
- Changes made in good faith, that organization can operate better.
- Opened floor for discussion
- Motion was made and seconded to approve the Homecoming Board Constitution. The motion carried.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. Student Affairs (*Dr. Angela Simmons*)

- No updates to report

B. Student Government Association (*Sam Felber*)

- Reading Day with SGA will take place on May 8th, 9th, and 10th in Commonwealth Ballroom (Squires)
- SGA inauguration is on April 29th at 5:30 at the Pylons where our new President and VP, as well as the new session of our General Assembly will be sworn in

C. Graduate Student Assembly (*Sam Fried*)

- Ryan Wesdock and Kevin Akers, two GSA delegates (from History and Statistics respectively), worked to pass a resolution on VT divestment from fossil fuels earlier this semester (attached). Along with this, they wrote an open letter to the BoV in the most recent issue of the Collegiate Times, and they reference the resolution. You can read it here.
- Our Diversity and Inclusion committee is currently working on a resolution to ask GSA to officially adopt the VT Principles of Community. This is something that the GSA has not formally adopted in the past. However, the resolution asks that we adopt the Principles with some amended language. Namely, there is some revised language (see below) that D&I feels will better protect marginalized graduate students. The resolution will be read at the April 25th GSA General Assembly Meeting, and the writers have asked that we waive a second reading.

Attachment A: University Principles of Community

- **We affirm** the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.
- **We affirm** the right of each person to express thoughts and opinions freely. We encourage open expression within a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect.
- **We affirm** the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and the University. We acknowledge and respect our differences while affirming our common humanity.

- **We reject** all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including those based on age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others.
- **We pledge** our collective commitment to these principles in the spirit of the Virginia Tech motto of *Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)*.

Attachment B: Revised Principles of Community

- **We affirm** the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.
 - **We affirm** the right of each person to express thoughts and opinions freely. We encourage open expression within a climate of **due deference**.
 - **We affirm** the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and the University. We acknowledge and respect our differences while affirming our common humanity.
 - **We reject** all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including those based on age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others. **We take each of these identifiers as a cohesive whole of tolerance, excluding only those which intend to exclude the others.**
 - **We pledge** our collective commitment to these principles in the spirit of the Virginia Tech motto of *Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)*.
- We've been collaborating with SGA on the advocacy around religious holidays. SGA Sam Felber may say something about this as well, but we had a meeting with the Dean of Students about it on Monday morning. Our D&I committee has been meeting about the issue as well.
 - We've having our elections on April 25th, 2019. It has been a complicated elections season, but our elections committee has been doing an impressive job.

D. Board of Visitors Representatives (Rachel Iwicki)

- President Sands will be at D2 @ noon tomorrow (Friday, April 19th)
- Senior Class Gift committee is looking for applicants for next year's committee and for people interested in serving in future years. We have had a successful year so far with over 650 gifts (just over \$12,000) making an impact at Virginia Tech and I highly recommend participating on the committee as it is highly rewarding and fun! This is a great opportunity for our members to consider or take to their organizations. Reach out to Tracy Myers.
- RHF has moved Hokie Casino Night to this Sunday, April 21st. It will be on the Drill Field in an Event Tent from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Same information as last meeting just a new date.
- Formal attire event, but there is no dress code. This is a charity event so we will be accepting donations, and our charity of choice this year is the Wounded Warrior Project. Event entry is free, and your first round of chips is on us. Hethwood Market will provide the catering for the evening. Attendees will have the opportunity to cash in their chips in exchange for raffle tickets that can be put toward prizes like: a Nintendo switch, tv, hammock, and many more. Games include: Poker, Black Jack, Roulette, Bingo, Plinko, and many more.

E. **Other, etc.** (*CSA Representatives*)

8. **Adjournment** (John Allen Livingston)

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:38pm.