

# MINUTES

## **Virginia Tech University Council: Commission on Student Affairs (CSA) Minutes**

November 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order by chair Chris Saunders at 3:34 p.m.

### **In attendance**

Byron Hughes, Jeremy Hall, Billy Lin, Spencer Jones, Lauren Surface, Alex Hyler, Mallory Foutch, Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Emily Brents, Megan Crouch, Susan Anderson, Kisha Greer, Andrew Peck, Isaiah Johnson, Brett Netto, Seyi Oulsina, Ennis McCrery, Rex Willis, Chris Saunders, Angela Simmons, Jake Gaddis, Claire Oliveros, Jaclyn Marmol, Sebastian Andrade, Andrew Peck, Sarah Lim, Chelsea Corkins

### **Absent with notification**

Robert Sebek

### **Attending guests**

Mike Dunn, Frances Keene, Patrick Lawrence

### **Absent**

Jake Gaddis, Patty Perillo

### **Approval of Agenda and Past Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried. A motion was also made to approve the minutes for the October 26, 2017 electronically. The motion was seconded and approved with edits.

### **Presentation**

Mr. Chris Saunders introduced Dr. Frances Keene to present her presentation for Housing and Residence Life that has been at the university for 16 years and is the current Interim Director of Housing and Residence Life. Dr. Keene expressed that Virginia Tech wants to create is the following:

- Living Learning Communities with Live-In Student Staff and Live-In Professional Staff
  - Living Communities make the learning experience a more inclusive environment that provides an experiential interaction with faculty and the community.
- First year students are always encouraged to live on campus unless requested to live off.

Dr. Keene provided a new view of the O'Shaughnessy Hall Renovation that will Incorporate Leadership, Social and Residential change. The plan is to construct a Curtain Wall Stair Tower and a Projected Canopy over a New Class Enclosed Entry.

- Johnson Hall will have a renovated space of the outside quad that there is the hope to interact with O'Shag.
- Residents Room are getting a makeover with new furniture. The rooms will feature a moveable designed doubles or triples and the building will incorporate community bathrooms.

- Triples would be offered for students that would prefer a more affordable accommodation space.
- A Fitness Quad that would include a partnership with rec sports is planned– They are and would continue to be instrumental in helping to design this concept.
- Dr. Keene presented the diagram and the blueprint of the new rooms and common area's in O'Shag.
- The goal is to open in the Fall of 2018.
- December will be the determining factor of completion date based on the up and coming freshman class.

#### **Division of Student Affairs Update –**

Dr. Angela Simmons -

- Applications for ACC Leadership symposium held at Duke are due on February 11<sup>th</sup> and will be available on gobbler connect.
- DSA Scholarship – Scholarship Central Application deadline is December 7<sup>th</sup>

#### **Constituency Updates:**

- Student Government Association update by Rex Willis – SGA hosted the Halloween event “My Culture is not a Costume”
  - They will also be hosting an open education event and will keep us updates on those events.
- Graduate Student Assembly update by Alex Hyler discussed and overview of the new US tax bill and how it would effect graduate students. There are many negative effects, and they will continue to work together to influence VA government officials to oppose certain parts of the bill.
- Board of Visitors Representatives updated by Seyi Olusina and Brett Netto – The board appreciated hearing from the students views of the good, bad and ugly. The BOV was also taken on a tour of campus to include Kentland Farms and stated it was a very enjoyable as well as appreciative experience.
  - The next meeting CSA will meet with the new Provost, Dr. Cyril Clarke.
  - There was a new undergraduate degree recognized which was a Public Health Degree.
  - The BOV passed the resolution to intergrade the Med School and that will be implemented in July 2018.

#### **University Council and Commission Updates:**

- Mr. Chris Saunders informed CSA that university Council has not meet since the last meeting.
- Mr. Chris Saunders reported that Mr. Andrew Peck sent a letter on behalf of JSU voicing concerns about student safety as well as the example that the campus is employing a self-confessed white supremacist that is a teaching assistant. This letter was sent to the Commission on Equal Opportunities and Diversity. CEOD will review and send an official response to JSU.

## **New Business**

- Jay Hogan the Vice Chair for Student Budget Board reported that there have been: 245 Budget Board requests and around – 185 have been approved.
  - Mr. Hogan also explained that a request has to be submitted with 30 days prior to the event in order to receive the board's approval and/or review.
  - An Online video must be accessed, and you must receive 100 in order to pass in order for you to request funding.
  - Annual funds are for UCSO only.
- Mr. Saunders expressed that he would like CSA to be more proactive and to create a subcommittee that is more of an exploratory committee. Mr. Saunders will send out a notation to see who's interested in this subcommittee and spearheading it.

**SECL Discussion** – Heather Wagoner and Gina Tamburro discussed streamlining budget board as well as the process of UCSO's, RSO's and other organizations that constitutes funding. This is an ongoing discussion among student leaders and will be discussed more next semester.

## **Announcements:**

- CISO is hosting an event tomorrow that will be sent to Chris and posted on the CSA Google Drive.
- Speaker tomorrow Rob LaRue that will be speaking as a LGBTQ+ individual in Agriculture and will have a candid conversation about operating and maneuvering in the world of agriculture as an LGBTQ+ Member.
- AASU had its official opening of the Asian Cultural Engagement Center last Friday and it was an overwhelming success. APCC will be hosting a book drive that is related to Asian Pacific Islander.

## **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled CSA meeting will be held on November 30, 2017 in the Brush Mountain Room at Squires Student Center.

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made at 4:58 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

**Recorder: Tracy Newton**