

Commission on Student Affairs
March 18, 2010
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Brush Mountain Room
Squires Student Center

Present: Kimberly Brown, Tom Brown, Brandon Carroll, Kimberly Carlson, Rick Ferraro, Laura Freeman, Rebecca French, Monika Gibson, Meg Gough, Kristina Hartman, Frank Hernandez, Monique Johnson, Aimee Kanode, Brad Klein, Nathan Lavinka, Amanda Eberhardt for Marco Leung, Anna LoMascolo, Shane McCarty, Michelle McLeese, Thomas Medina, Matt Penny, Adam Rubin, Robert Sebak, Sharmin Shamsalsadati, Frank Shushok, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Leighton Vila, Ben Wade Rawlin Jefferson for Lauren Thompson

Absent: Kristin Carr, Ashley Davis, Liana Farb, Brian Golden, Shivana Handa, Monica Hunter, Mary Ann Lewis, Donna Ratcliffe, John Steger, Nigel Wray

Guests: James Carty, Ali Cross, Liana Bayne, Sara Mitchell, Tommy Davidson

I. Call to Order

Ms. McLeese, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 P.M.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and the agenda approved.

III. Welcome and Chair Update(s)

- The April 15 CSA meeting has been moved to April 22 due to April 16 events
- Nominations for the 2010-2011 CSA Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the April 1 meeting. Members are asked to consider self-nominating or nominating someone else for these positions. Any questions regarding these positions can be directed to Ms. McLeese or Mr. McCarty.
- The candidates for the Student Representatives to the Board of Visitors were introduced. The Undergraduate candidates are Shane McCarty, Jess Martin, and Michael Cardman and the Graduate candidates are: Deepu George and Ali Tamijani. Selection will be made at the March 21 BOV Selection Committee meeting.

IV. Guest Speakers

A. Erin Myers, Chair, Joey O'Toole, and Kristina Hartman – Recreational Sports Advisory Board Report

The Board is made up of student employees, faculty, staff, and graduate students and the purpose is to represent the interest and needs of the student and university community in the areas of recreation, wellness and fitness. Some areas they are currently working on are:

- Faculty/staff memberships that have been approved for a two year pilot program – this would allow faculty and staff the opportunity to work out in McComas Hall during off-peak hours and would promote Hokie community by giving faculty, staff, and students more chances to interact than just in the classroom.
- War Memorial facility improvements – creating a welcoming environment, increased available space and perception, and improved locker room facilities
- Outdoor Recreation – the goal is to provide students with the best services and programs in order to take advantage of the natural surroundings. Currently, the existing facility is too small to provide quality services and there is a lack of resources. It is also hoped that there will be funding for a Ropes Course in the future.
- First Year Recreation Experience – because students tend to form habits they continue during their first year in school, this would be a program to promote good and smart health and fitness practices and would get students involved in activities that allow them to meet people who appreciate the exercise and sports they enjoy.

In response to a question regarding the overcrowding at McComas, it was noted that there will be additional space with the expansion once that project is completed and the faculty/staff pilot project will not occur until the expansion is open. Dr. Ferraro noted that the expansion will open an additional 24,000 sq. ft.

The Board wants to continue to meet with the Commission to create awareness of issues and improvements in Recreational Sports.

B. Nora Tayiel, Womanspace Coordinator, Take Back the Night Presentation

Ms. Tayiel explained that Womanspace is a feminist organization on campus which tries to support all activities involving women. She distributed a handout identifying the projects that they are working on:

- Take Back the Night – this will be the 21st Take Back the Night Rally at Virginia Tech, which will be held on Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. on the Drillfield. The rain location will be at the Wesley Foundation. The

purpose is to bring campus and community members together to protest violence against women and to promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that perpetuate this violence.

- Clothesline Project Display – the shirts on the clothesline demonstrate the pain and suffering of the survivors, aid in their healing process, and celebrate their strength and courage to overcome the past. The display will be on the Drillfield on March 24, 25, and 26, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with the rain location being Squires Student Center.
- Ribbon Project – Purple ribbons were distributed to the members to wear throughout the month to show support for victims and to protest sexual violence against all people.

She encouraged the members to provide support by participating in as many events as possible throughout the month.

- C. Deepu George, Connections: A Community Arts Project Presentation – Mr. George explained that this is a creative project that will bring Virginia Tech and the New River Valley communities together to represent our spirit and commitment to one another. The purpose is to foster participants' collaboration, exploration of community issues and expression through art and spoken word, with a goal to engage, create, and share. At this time they are looking for sponsorships and volunteers. For more information you can go to their website: www.visionengage.org

V. Old Business

- A. Laura Freeman and Kristina Hartman, Co-Chairs CSA Membership Review Subcommittee, Resolutions to change membership to CSA, 1st Reading

Ms. Freeman presented the first resolution which would reduce membership by four seats.

- Remove the Associate Vice President for Academic Support Services
- Replace the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education with the Vice President & Dean for Undergraduate Education
- Move Dean of Students to Ex. Officio position (Dr. Spencer explained that ex-officio positions are there by virtue of the office they hold (i.e., Vice President for Student Affairs, Associate Vice Presidents, Assistant Vice Presidents, etc. and the Dean of Students should be the same)
- Eliminate the two Division of Student Affairs Representatives (now covered under the Ex-Officio positions)
- Reduce the number of representatives from Faculty Senate from three to one

The second resolution deals with the removal of student seats:

- The membership be revised to remove the Chief Justice of the Graduate Honor System and the Chief Justice of the Undergraduate Honor System

There will be more discussion about these resolutions at the second reading which will be done at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Rohsaan Settle, Associate Director of Student Conduct—UPSL/Hokie Handbook Review Committee, Resolution for Expansion of the Abusive Conduct Policy for Student Code of Conduct, 1st Reading

Mr. Settle presented for the 1st reading the resolution for Expansion of the Abusive Conduct Policy for Student Code of Conduct which adds: #6. Recording of Images with Knowledge. This serves as protection for students and explains expectations that we have of students.

B. Rohsaan Settle, Associate Director of Student Conduct – UPSL/Hokie Handbook Review Committee, Resolution for Expansion of the Disorderly Conduct Policy for Student Code of Conduct, 1st Reading

Mr. Settle presented for the 1st reading the resolution for Expansion of the Disorderly Conduct Policy for Student Code of Conduct) to serve as to protect students who are engaged in the student conduct process. The second readings will be at the next meeting.

C. Hokie Day Updates from those who attended the General Assembly

Ms. Hartman explained that Hokie Day at the General Assembly is when students go to the state capitol and knock on doors of the delegates, which has a major impact. Mr. Carroll reported that impact that was made this year as they were lobbying for the student fee proposal to take away money from our reserve funds (\$600,000) from every school and they ended up not doing that. However they did change the financial aid process which makes it more difficult and added a sur-tax for students.

Ms. French reported that this was the first time that there was a group of graduate students and they were acknowledged from the floor of the Senate as being present. They had the opportunity to talk about the role of graduate students at the university as students, teachers, and researchers and how they give back to Virginia Tech.

Ms. McLeese noted the theme that kept coming up was conflict that delegates and senators are up against as they have to make many cuts, but they have multiple venues that they have to serve.

The membership was encouraged to go next year because it's a great way to collaborate as graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Spencer reiterated that it makes a big difference and we saw it dramatically with getting them not to skim off of the reserve balances.

VII. Other Items

- A. Dr. Sims reported that every so often there is something on the Drillfield that requires sound amplification and currently, we have two policies: a policy for the residential side of campus and a policy for the academic side of campus which sometimes results in conflict for the customer. For the next meeting, a member from Event Planning will come and share this issue and we as a body can address and try to come to some sort of unified recommendation (the current administrative policies were developed with input from the Commission).
- B. In response to a question, it was noted that the videotaping of CSA meetings has resulted from the dialogue regarding the CT and EMCVT.
- C. Mr. Carroll reported that it has been suggested by a student that we make CSA seats opened up to an application process. There was also a concern expressed with cutting the Graduate Chief Justice seat. We need to make sure that there is a balance between graduate and undergraduate students. As graduate students, they have many of the same concerns and issues. We need to make sure that we are proportionate in representation.
- D. In response to the letter issued from the Attorney General's office and statement by the Governor, Ms. Freeman met with Dr. Steger and Dr. McNamee yesterday. They are working through the Office of Diversity & Inclusion to have an academic forum on this issue.

Ms. Kanode also met with the Provost and tomorrow, March 19, the LGBTA and others are holding a rally supporting Virginia Tech's Principles of Community as they stand. They are looking forward to a positive rally which will be held at 12:30 p.m. on the Graduate Life Center Plaza.

Ms. Hartman also met with Dr. Steger who expressed his commitment to the Principles of Community and Dr. Klein noted that the Faculty Senate passed a resolution for continued support for the Principles of Community.

VIII. Announcements

- Ms. Hartman thanked the members of Commission who helped select the finalists for Student Representatives to the Board of Visitors.
- Freedom to Marry rally will be held on the Drillfield next week
- GSA Research Symposium will be held on March 24 and it will be Graduate Education Week

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Rogers
Recording Secretary