

**Commission on Student Affairs**  
**April 22, 2010**  
**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Brush Mountain Room**  
**Squires Student Center**

**Present:** Brandon Carroll, Kimberly Carlson, Thomas Beckwith, Liana Farb, Rick Ferraro, Rebecca French, Monika Gibson, Meg Gough, Kristina Hartman, Ashley Laitano for Frank Hernandez, Monica Hunter, Monique Johnson, Sara Brickman for Aimee Kanode, Brad Klein, Nathan Lavinka, Marco Leung, Greer Kelly for Shane McCarty, Michelle McLeese, Thomas Medina, Matthew Penny, Adam Rubin, Robert Sebak, Sharmin Shamsalsadati, Frank Shushok, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer

**Absent:** Kimberly Brown, Tom Brown, Kristin Carr, Laura Freeman, Brian Golden, Shivana Handa, Peter Laclede, Mary Ann Lewis, Anna LoMascolo, Donna Ratcliffe, Leighton Vila, Ben Wade, Lauren Thompson, Nigel Wray

**Guests:** Kevin Ayoub, Liana Bayne, Sandy Bass, Steve Burrell, Tyler Campbell, James Carty, Thomas Emerick, Caroline D. Gimenez, Bo Hart, Zachary Hatcher, Megan Moore

**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)**

Ms. McLeese expressed congratulations to the 2010-2011 Chair and Vice Chairs: Nathan Lavinka, Chair and Meg Gough, Vice Chair for Fall Semester and Sandy Bass, Vice Chair for Spring Semester.

University Council Discussion Items

- The resolution to change the name of the College of Natural Resources passed and the name was changed to the College of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies added a seat for the Graduate Student Assembly

## CEOD Discussion Items

- Ross Edmonds will be the Chair for 2010-2011
- Continue working on a strategic plan
- The Climate Task Force met and will be revisiting some issues over the summer
- The focus of the CEOD will be reevaluated during the summer.
- The Office of Equity and Inclusion will become the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Ms. Mcleese expressed her thanks to the Commission for their support and diligence over the past year.

Ms. Mcleese noted that the dialogue must continue regarding the CSA/EMCVT/CT issue and that we need to deliberate about issuing a statement on this issue. We need to recognize the efforts of CT and EMCVT while at the same time continuing to stress some of our concerns on matters that need to be paid attention to. Ms. French noted that Sara Mitchell has expressed that until CSA rescinds the resolution they will not meet with CSA as a whole. Ms. McLeese responded that there is no resolution to be rescinded.

Dr. Spencer suggested that there should be a letter that summarizes areas of agreement and area of disagreement that need to be followed up on. A motion was made to draft a statement to the CT. The motion was seconded and passed. Ms. McLeese will prepare a statement that she will share with the Commission prior to sending it out.

Ms. McLeese then turned the meeting over to the 2010-2011 Chair, Nathan Lavinka. Mr. Lavinka stated that the Commission on Student Affairs is a direct representation of motives, passions, drives, etc. that go on within the student body here at VT and he challenged the members of the Commission to talk to their constituents for next year. He will be sending out a survey to find out what concerns or issues the Commission would like to be addressed so that they can get feedback from their constituents over the summer. Challenge – talk to your constituents for next year.

## **IV. Guest Speakers**

### **A. Monica Hunter, Interim Director of Student Activities, and Steve Burrell, Assistant Director of Student Activities – Budget Decisions for 2011-12**

Ms. Monica Hunter distributed copies of the Annual Funding documents for review. Total funds available and appropriated for this funding cycle were \$880,612. Ms. Hunter expressed her thanks to Matt Penny and Laura Freeman who worked with her on this process. Ms. Hunter noted that the amount of money requested overall decreased from last year.

Mr. Burrell explained that one difference between RSOs and SBB requests is that the RSOs are not governing bodies. Their requests are for things such as travel to conferences, competition groups, and a variety of other groups who do things both on and off campus. It was noted that seats on CSA must have a seat on the Student Budget Board and it was recommended that there be graduate representatives on the RSO Board also.

There will be some policy changes submitted to CSA at the beginning of next year based on a concern about how much money goes into sports groups (i.e., travel, registration fee for tournaments, etc.)

Ms. Hunter expressed the importance of attending the Budget Board training workshops and noted that although one member from each organization is required to attend, multiple members can be in attendance.

B. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer and Tim Hodge, University Budget Director – Virginia Tech Budgets

Mr. Shelton opened the discussion by stating that they are willing and interested to work in the next academic year with students to help you understand how decisions are made and to obtain student input to advance the things that students are interested in regarding financial support at the institution.

Mr. Shelton and Mr. Hodge distributed to the group a presentation on the 2010-11 Tuition Fee Development and Mr. Shelton asked that this information be kept confidential until the Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors takes action the following day. Because of the presence of the Collegiate Times, a motion was made to have this portion of the meeting be private. The motion was seconded and passed. At that time the CT staff were asked to step out until this discussion was completed.

Mr. Shelton explained that they have looked hard at what needs to be done for the long term of the university through budget reductions in our administrative and academic areas, so they are at the point that they believe very strongly that the university cannot afford any more reductions to the academic and administrative units. Faced with these difficulties, it is believed that a portion of the reduction that faces us must be dealt with through tuition. Virginia Tech has a history of having the lowest tuition and fees in the state, but, but in reality, we cannot necessarily continue that pattern.

Mr. Hodge reviewed the tuition and fee development process noting that the Commonwealth of Virginia is dealing with a \$7 billion dollar shortfall and the university is facing budget reductions through 2012. The good news is that there are federal stimulus funds that are providing temporary relief.

Mr. Shelton noted that the recommendation for next year is that there should be more of a direct connect to students before decisions are made on their behalf and that if these discussions are going to be had, it needs to start early in the fall. They are willing to listen and reflect those in the budget process, if possible.

Mr. Shelton and Mr. Hodge discussed the proposed rates stating that last year tuition rose by 5%. This year's increases are in response to the loss of state resources but we are moving tuition to about what we think our peer institutions are doing.

In response to questions, some other points were made:

- The university is committed to try finding a 24-hour facility.
- Some have thought we need parking garages, others thought not, but in fact, we are going to have them. Mr. Shelton noted that because the capital plan is set in 10-year, 6-year, and 2-year segments, the commitment to the current deck was made several years ago. In terms of facilities, you have to be thinking a good bit ahead. But students should continue talking about other means of transportation in order to have an impact on future parking garage projects.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Kevin Ayoub and Sub-Committee on Revisiting Policy 5000, Virginia Tech On Campus Amplification Policy**

Mr. Ayoub reported that the sub-committee met along with Seta Williams, Planner for Public Space. They are not yet prepared to bring a recommendation to the Commission. The direction that they are heading is to speak to the Library Plaza area and the Drillfield regarding amplified sound and decibel levels. Dr. Spencer suggested that they get input from departments (Civil Engineering and Psychology) that would most likely have classes facing the Drillfield (Patton Hall and Williams Hall) and get them involved in the process.

Mr. Ayoub reminded that it is time for Advance Reservation Requests and the forms are available in the Event Planning Office

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Rachael Budowle, Sustainability Coordinator for Housing and Dining Services, and SGA Representatives, Alex Fund and Kyle Gardiner: Discussion on possibilities/potential of eliminating water bottles from dining halls** In the absence of Rachel Budowle, Alex Fund and Kyle Gardiner, Brandon Carroll reported that there is a lot of discussion on trying to get away from plastic water

bottles in dining halls (i.e. Hokie Water bottles). They have collected significant data and are seeking the opinion of the Commission.

Mr. Carroll gave an update on the 24-hour study facility in Torgersen Hall. He reported that Torgersen is no longer an option based on the cost that it would take to monitor the facility and equipment. The Administration has made a commitment that there will be a 24-hour facility somewhere. Mr. Carroll encouraged the Commission members to e-mail Ken Smith and others to ask that the Library become a 24-hour facility. Dr. Spencer noted that after doing an analysis among the other ACC schools, all have a 24-hour study facility (at least during finals) and in all cases that facility is the library. This will be revisited by the administration during the summer and they will bring Dr. Spencer into the conversation.

Dr. Spencer noted that they have been asked us to do an analysis of the Library, GBJ and Squires, but the position to represent is that students are not interested in either of the student centers. The first choice is the Library and then Torgersen.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Rogers  
Recording Secretary