

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

September 16, 2010

Present: Sandy Bass, Dani Bernabe, Sara Brickman, Tom Brown, Michael Cardman, Dustin Dorph, Rick Ferraro, Deepu George, Caroline Gimenez, Bo Hart, Lauren Heming, Frank Hernandez, Eric Hodges, Monica Hunter, Jessi Kane, Greer Kelly, Brad Klein, Nathan Lavinka, Anna LoMascolo, Michelle McLeese, Jonathan Moore, Nate Navasca for Richmond Hwang, Rawlin Jefferson for Pamella Palmer, Rhonda Rogers, Kelley McKew for Matt Parker, Alex Walker for Charles Petty, David Ramras, Joseph Seaton, Robert Sebek, Frank Shushok, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Leighton Vila

Absent: Lubna Chowdhury, Monika Gibson, Meg Gough, Mary Ann Lewis, Shane McCarty, Nigel Wray

Guests: Sarah Watson, Michelle Sutherland, Cynthia Bonner, Steve Burrell, Ron Angert, Mike Mulhare

I. Call to Order

Mr. Nathan Lavinka, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

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

III. Welcome and Chair Updates

Mr. Lavinka welcomed all to the first meeting of the Commission and introductions were made. He also asked that Commission members send a proxy to the meetings if they are unable to attend.

Mr. Lavinka noted that as Chair of CSA he also sits on the Commission of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD) and he shared some things that that Commission will be doing this year:

- Looking to review the Diversity Summit
- Looking at the different cultural holidays and how they are addressed throughout the university
- Looking at how to implement the diversity strategic plan into their mission as a Commission

IV. Guest Speakers/Presenters

A. Dr. Edward Spencer, Vice President for Student Affairs, What is CSA?

- Dr. Spencer reviewed the governance structure (distributed packet with organizational charts for the President's staff, Provost's staff, and Student Affairs staff).
- Structure of CSA – Dr. Spencer explained that CSA is the only commission that can be chaired by a student. He suggested that if you are going to institute some kind of legislation, consult the governance page on the Virginia Tech website on how to write a resolution and/or consult with Ms. Rogers. Resolutions generally require a first reading at one meeting and a 2nd reading at the next meeting. He did note that not everything that we do has to be done as a resolution. You can pass a motion expressing an opinion or endorsement about something.

B. Mr. Mike Mulhare, Director of Emergency Management, State Managed Shelter Program

Mr. Ron Angert, Emergency Preparedness Manager for the Division of Student Affairs, introduced Mr. Michael Mulhare, Director of Emergency Management for the University. Mr. Mulhare spoke to the Commission about Virginia Tech being selected by the Governor as a State Managed Shelter Program that would go into effect here at the University in the event of an emergency. Mr. Mulhare also noted that they are running a Campus Community Emergency Response team which is an opportunity to provide training for staff and students who can be used to assist in the event we have to set up a shelter. Participation from students is encouraged and, if interested, students can contact Mr. Angert.

During the discussion there was a huge concern raised regarding safety, lost fees due to lack of facilities, how to keep the evacuees busy, how to communicate to students that VT is a SMS, etc., However, it was emphasized that this is a state mandate and not the decision of the University.

Role and Responsibility of Virginia Tech

- At the request of the Governor, VT will host a SMS on its campus
- Provide voice and data communications capability and high speed internet
- Provide staff to the Incident Management Team
- Provide site setup and teardown capabilities for the shelter
- Virginia Maryland Regional Veterinary College will support the operation of the companion animal shelter
- Continue to operate the University and maintain normalcy for students, staff faculty, and visitors.

V. Old Business – There was no old business to discuss.

VI. New Business

- A. Danielle Bernabe, UCFS Resolution for Constitution Revisions/Updates, 1st Reading
Ms. Bernabe presented, as the first reading, the resolution for revisions to the UCFS constitution. She hit on some of the major revisions and updates which include a name change; instead of United Council of Fraternities and Sororities, the name be changed to Multicultural Greek Council. The second reading will be at the next meeting, which will be followed by a vote. Commission members need to read over the document and be prepared to ask questions and vote at the next meeting.
- B. Monica Hunter, Interim Director for Student Activities, Review Annual Funding Policies
Ms. Hunter requested volunteers to sit on a subcommittee to look at the funding policies to see how they might be revamped. The subcommittee will probably meet throughout the semester and will then bring a report back to the Commission in the spring. Any changes would take effect for the annual funding year 2012-2013. There were volunteers and the subcommittee will be: Ms. Hunter, Ray Williams, Steve Burrell, Erica Swanson, Dave Ramras, Michelle McLeese, Caroline Gimenez, Leighton Villa.
- C. Future Agenda Items/Survey Results

Mr. Lavinka reported that at the September 30 meeting, all survey results will be brought before the group, so he asked that those members who have not yet filled out the survey to please do so.

VII. Announcements

- Who's Who applications are out and members are encouraged to apply. Dr. Spencer emphasized how important Who's Who is on a resume when looked at by employers.
- Treasurer workshops are going on now and all organizations who receive annual funding have to go through this workshop.
- Jim Stroup, from University Relations, wants to pull some folks together to have 10,000 people do the Hokie Pokey for the World Guinness Book of Records
- The RSO budget board is seeking volunteers.
- Deepu George and Shane Mccarty, in partnership with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, are hosting a breakfast on September 30 which will involve Student Affairs staff and they would like to have representation from student organizations to have dialogue on diversity issues.
- The Graduate Student Assembly is planning to sponsor a "fees forum" on September 30, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. with Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Tim Hodge, University Budget Director, and Karen DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education. An announcement will be coming out shortly
- 2012 Ring Premiere is October 5
- The Graduate Student Assembly is hosting a Graduate Professional School Fair on September 27.

- Hispanic/Latino Heritage month started yesterday and goes through October 15.
- Dr. Sims reported that food operations hours in Squires will be expanded. The Au Bon Pain kiosk will be open until 11:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday nights and until midnight on Saturday and the Break Zone will have snacks until closing.,
- Mr. Lavinka announced that in order to more effectively disseminate information from the meetings, they have created a blog at vtcsa.wordpress.com, to recap what goes on at the meeting in a conversational tone.
- The Class of 2011 will be unveiling their class gift on Thursday, September 23

VIII. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Rogers
Recording Secretary