

Commission on Student Affairs

December 4th, 2008

3:37-4:30pm

Brush Mountain Room

Squires Student Center

Members Present: Ingrid Ngai, Guy Sims, Nick Ferraro, Monica Hunter, Brad Klein, Katie Greenleaf on behalf of Leah McClinton, Lauren Keister on behalf of Monika Gibson, Joe McFadden, James Freeman, Linsey Barker, Lauren Davis, Andy Fortin, Penny Cook on behalf of Anna Lomascolo, Tom Brown, Lynsey Stuart, Ed Spencer, Michelle McLeese, Jamie Howard on behalf of the NPHC member, Rianka Urbina, Emily Mashack, Sharon Meehan on behalf of the RHF, Nathan Lavinka, and Brian Golden

Guests Present: Shivani Handa, Alex Miller, Jeremy Sutherland, Elena Dulys-Nusbaum, Stephen Smith, Dana Gilmore, Owen Maroney, and Kim Timpany

I. Call to Order:

Lynsey Stuart called the meeting to order at 3:37pm.

II. Adoption of Agenda:

There was a motion to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Arlane Gordon Bray, ACS The Forum Data Presentation. Arlane Gordon Bray was not present; the Commission continued onto New Business.

IV. New Business

A. Resolution on CSA Membership, 2nd reading

Jamie Howard from NPHC presented the second reading. There was only one small change on page 2 where the Designee of the Graduate School was removed from the list of members on CSA. There were no questions regarding membership change or UCFS.

There was a motion to pass the Resolution on CSA Membership. The motion was seconded and approved.

B. Pan-Hellenic Council Constitution Revisions, 2nd Reading

No one was present from the Pan-Hellenic Council; the Commission moved to Guest Speakers.

V. Guest Speaker

A. Chief Justice, Dana Gilmore from the SGA Judicial Branch. Elections Process and Constitutional Review Process

The SGA Judicial Branch had three main goals this year:

1) To Reform Constitution By-Laws:

The Judicial Branch established a committee on the Constitution Referendum. The first reading of the new working Constitution draft will be presented by the members of this committee to the SGA House and Senate during the first meeting after the winter break. By mid-February the Constitution will be voted on by the student body and by late February/early March it will come back for review at CSA. Finally, the Constitution will be presented to the University Council.

2) To Revise Election By-Laws:

A vote on the final draft of the Election by-laws will take place in the SGA House and Senate at the first meeting after winter break. If approved, it will be put into effect. The Judicial Branch took many of the CSA ad-hoc committee suggestions into consideration, including working on infractions and setting a standard general election timeline.

3) To Increase Voter Turn-Out

The SGA has been working on several marketing projects to increase voter turn-out, including advertising with BT.

There were no questions from CSA members.

B. SGA Executive Branch Constituent Outreach co-directors Jesse Miller and LJ Bradberry

Extreme Makeover: Campus Addition is a program enacted each fall to gauge student opinion on a variety of topics. This year, the program took place in two parts on October 14th and 15th.

- In the first part of the program, SGA members stood out on the drill field and asked passing students to mark on a large poster board their opinion on 5 topics around campus. The topics were chosen based on 5 issues that had not been resolved the previous year.
 - 24 Hour Study Facility
 - Smoking on Campus
 - Diversity Class Requirement
 - Enrollment (campus overcrowded)
 - Sustainability
- The second part of the program involved SGA members encouraging people to write ideas and opinions on T-shirts. (More open ended than the fixed topics on the poster board)

Please see the attached PowerPoint presentation for the program results

Questions/Clarifications

- No demographic information was collected in the study (e.g., class and housing information). Next semester SGA will continue to collect more specific data through the program “First Friday Feedbacks” where SGA members will be available to take suggestions at West End.
- It was suggested that “First Friday Feedbacks” rotate days to include students who don’t go to campus on Fridays.
- The SGA plans to take the information gathered in the study to the SGA house and senate and to other student organizations. The information has already been presented to the Board of Visitors and to the Forum on dining services.
- It was suggested that in the future the SGA work with a faculty advisor from the statistics department or the Survey center for further information.

VI. Announcements

1. If you are a member of a student organization that will switch officers mid-way through the year, please contact Lynsey.
2. There was a request to make an addition to the agenda and present the first reading of three pieces of legislation. The request was accepted and Elena Dulys-Nusbaum from SGA’s Environmental Coalition was given the floor:

The SGA House and Senate passed three pieces of legislation that stemmed from student concern with sustainable dining practices. The SGA is bringing the legislation to the CSA for approval as a way of validating student support of the measures.

1. Request Dining Services to review and investigate the possible use of reusable mugs (any form of pre-approved container) in dining halls and to potentially offer a discount to patrons who use a mug.
 - The legislation uses the vague term “mug” and not more specific container names in order to allow more flexibility in the measure.
 - It was pointed out that reusable containers were once used on campus, and that the program was stopped due to health concerns.
 - The idea was suggested that instead of students bringing in mugs, students will swap out their old mugs for new clean containers.
2. Request Dining Services to investigate donating food to food banks and other local food organizations.
 - Health concerns would have to take a high priority in the research and implementation of this measure. It was pointed out that some high-risk foods have very specific temperature/time qualifications in order to meet health code.
 - Transportation and Container concerns were also expressed.

3. Request Dining Services to phase out the use of automatic paper receipts.
 - It was pointed out that receipts may have to be used to prove that a student purchased an item – protection against theft.
 - Make receipts an aesthetic issue
 - Potentially a student privacy issue.

All further discussion on these three pieces of legislation will be put on hold until Rick Johnson (or a representative for Dining Services) can attend. This will be placed on the agenda for the first meeting in the spring.

3. There was a reminder that the Monterrey Tech presentation will be tomorrow at 3:30pm in the Graduate Life Center Multi-Purpose Room.
4. The Summer Leadership Employment Program opportunity was announced.
5. There was a reminder of the Town/Gown forum on Alcohol awareness.
6. ACC Intercollegiate Academic Consortium Leadership Conference (February 20th-22nd) will be accepting nominations. This year, VT is hosting the conference. Theme: Civility in a global society.
7. Judicial Review Committee will have a report for Dr. Spencer by the end of the semester.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Beaulieu

Recording Secretary