

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, February 14, 2013

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

Present: Shaimaa Abdallah, Marwa Abdullatif, Chris Atkins, Cathy Betzel, Tyler Campbell, Claire Childress, Dustin Dorph, Jessica Estariz, designee for Chris Tam, Monika Gibson, Kylie Gilbert, Michael Goodwin, Jacob Gorhs, Lauren Hemming, Robyn Jones, Kristen McCall, Nick Onopa, Patty Perillo, Caroline Sapyta, Robert Sebek, Chris Tam, Jason Berube for Jay Tucker

Guests: Catherine Cotrupi

I. Call to Order

Chris called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Old Business

- a. November 29th Student Forum Update- Dr. Perillo
Dr. Perillo reported on the November 29, 2012 Student Forum and noted that there were some common themes that emerged:
 1. UCSOs talked about the need for more training needed;
 2. International students have a concern that the University falls short in integrating international students with domestic students and that there are no services and programs that allow for international families to become integrated into the community;
 3. Residential parking/parking fees were of concern;
 4. Students wanted more bike lanes and bike paths; and,
 5. Students want more late night and weekend programming.

III. New Business

- a. Hokie Day Update- Dustin Dorph
Mr. Dorph reported that the Hokie Day event was very successful in lobbying the state government on issues and there was great interaction among students and administrators, faculty, and staff representatives. He encouraged members to take advantage of this opportunity and apply to go next year.
- b. BOV Student Representative Positions - Nick Onopa & Robyn Jones
Mr. Onopa noted that the application deadline is tomorrow, February, at 5:00 p.m. and asked for volunteers to serve on the selection committee, which will decide on the three candidates to move on to interview with the Board of Visitors Selection Committee. Dr. Perillo explained the screening mechanism.

Ms. Jones talked about the graduate student representative process and asked that graduate students contact her if they are interested in serving on that selection committee.

Mr. Onopa announced that the top candidates will attend the March 7 CSA meeting to give a brief presentation.

c. Duke University Incident - Chris Tam

Chris Tam reported on an incident that occurred at Duke University where a fraternity held an Asian themed party, although the University had encouraged them to reconsider this program. The Asian community at Duke launched a poster campaign to address their concerns. Chris noted that steps are now being taken by the University and the Asian Community to try and rectify the situation.

Mr. Tam made a motion to form a sub-committee to develop an opinion from the Virginia Tech Community on the Duke University incident. The motion was seconded by Nick Onopa. The motion carried.

Dr. Perillo encouraged that there be some research done on the situation so that folks are educated about the matter.

Nick Onopa used this time to discuss the Campus Clubs Bill. Currently, Virginia Tech policy states that student organizations are required to follow the anti-discrimination policy. The Campus Clubs Bill will reverse the current practice and would allow student organizations to discriminate. Nick recommended that CSA members read it, study it, and be prepared to talk about it at the next CSA meeting.

The following CSA members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee that will be chaired by Chris Tam: Caroline Sapyta, Michael Goodwin, Shaimma Abdallah, Tyler Campbell, and Lauren Hemming.

d. Post CSA Retreat Follow-Up (transforming CSA and personal commitments) – Patty Perillo

Dr. Perillo reported that each member in attendance at the CSA retreat was asked to write a statement of commitment to CSA, as a way to inspire the type of work that we need to do as a Commission. For those who did not attend the retreat and want to make a commitment, they can send it to Ms. Rogers to be added and the document will be sent back-out electronically. Also distributed was a document created at the CSA retreat that identified “barriers” to a successful CSA. Both the “commitments” and “barriers” documents will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

e. Ms. Abdallah expressed a concern that GSA and the Graduate Representative to the BOV had not been approached about Hokie Day. They had budgeted to send students this year and have also added this into next year’s budget. Mr. Dorph apologized, noting that they marketed materials to all students and made applications available for anyone to apply. Along with SGA, Dr. Perillo suggested that Jaime Joslin be made aware of this issue so that next year there will not be such an oversight. Ms. Abdallah wanted to discuss why it was housed in the SGA advisor’s responsibility when it was a program for both graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Perillo agreed to review this process with her staff.

- f. New/ Listed Agenda Items for Next Meeting- Commission Members
 - 1. Campus Club Bill – Nick Onopa
 - 2. Alcohol Sanctions – Nick Onopa
 - 3. SGA Resolutions – Dustin Dorph
 - 4. CSA Commitments – Patty Perillo
 - 5. CSA Barriers/Solutions – Patty Perillo

IV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.