

MINUTES

Virginia Tech University Council: Commission on Student Affairs (CSA) Minutes

March 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Commission chair Mr. Matt Chan at 3:30 p.m.

In attendance

Julia Billingsley, Matt Chan, Alicia Cohen, Pat Finn, Amy Hermundstad, Alex Hyler, Delk Koolman, Jaclyn Marmol, Ron Mecham, Mairead Novak, Andrew Peck, Eryn Peters for Evan Robohm, Tara Reel, Chris Saunders, Angela Simmons, Lauren Surface, Cameron Varano, Meghna Verna, Hannah Whiteman

Absent with notification

Travis Bauer, Liang Shi

Attending guests

Kristen Houston, Tracy Newton, Diane Zahm

Absent

Susan Anderson, Ben Calvo Rivera, Aliana Harrison, Byron Hughes, Meriam Nure, James Orr

Approval of Agenda and Past Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

The Student Budget Board (SBB) prepared and sent a written report to Mr. Chan ahead of time. More than 400 funding requests have been heard at this point in the academic year, and about \$420,000 was approved for many Registered Student Organizations. Previous SBB Policy and Procedures amendment approved by CSA has given many organizations funding for philanthropic and charitable events. Annual funding request presentations from University Chartered Student Organizations have all been heard by the Board, with 6 out of the 19 proposals preliminarily reviewed and adjusted. The SBB will bring their Annual Funding appropriation strategy to CSA for approval on April 6th.

Chris Saunders, CSA vice chair and representative to the Hokie Handbook Review Committee, reported that the Committee met on February 24th to discuss continuing updates to the Hokie Handbook. There were some concerns regarding the medical amnesty and bystander protection policy with regards to student alcohol usage. These policies were approved by the University and the Board of Visitors last fall. Students expressed concerns on implementation and CSA members agreed that it seems that there are many nuances on the related circumstance. Mr. Chan note that he will invite the Committee co-chairs to CSA later on in the year for a full report on all changes to be made to the Hokie Handbook.

Constituency Updates

Ms. Julia Billingsley gave an update on Student Government Association (SGA) activities. There is ongoing debate on the funding request for Relay for Life. Also, SGA is organizing a series of events addressing cultural awareness, including an event titled "Step into our Shoes".

Ms. Alex Hyler gave an update on Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) activities. The GSA has approved an endorsement to the Annual Take Back the Night Rally and March during their last General Assembly meeting. Ongoing work by the newly formed task force is looking into addressing disproportionate impact of the 9 credit full time requirement on international students. The application window for all GSA funding programs will be opened after spring break. Lastly, the GSA Beer and Wine Social is scheduled to take place on April 1st.

Mr. Delk Koolman and Ms. Tara Reel gave updates on the activities of the Board of Visitors (BoV) student representatives. The top three candidates for the undergraduate representative and graduate representative will be invited to an interview session at CSA on the March 23rd meeting. Mr. Koolman reported that Mr. Gabe Cohen's (current undergraduate representative to the BoV) initiative for student announcements

appearing on the Canvas dashboard will be rolled out soon. Mr. Koolman will forward questions regarding implementation from CSA members to Mr. Cohen. Ms. Reel also reported the University Master student forum will take place on March 13th, 7:30pm-9pm. Ms. Reel also mentioned that the student luncheon with President Sands and Provost Rikakis will take place on March 16th.

University Council and Commission Updates

Mr. Chan reported that there are no activities at the University Council as there were no meetings since the last report.

Mr. Saunders reported that there are no activities at the Commission on Equal Opportunities and Diversity as there were no meetings that were held since the last report.

Mr. Andrew Peck reported that there are no activities at the Academic Support Committee as there were no meetings that were held since the last report.

Division of Student Affairs Update

Dr. Angela Simmons gave an update from the Division. The Division has many events and programs planned for the upcoming weeks. Many deadlines for applications are now extended. The Keystone Fellows application will be due on March 15th, while application for DSA student scholarships for undergraduate students will retain its due date of March 15th. A new Black Cultural Center Alumni Board scholarship for an undergraduate student has been announced, and more information will be available soon. University Student Leadership Awards nominations will be due on March 17th. Housing and Residence Life's "Favorite Faculty" nominations will be due on March 5th.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Chan introduced Dr. Diane Zahm, Associate Professor and Chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Ethics. Dr. Zahm brought forward the Joint Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a University Ombuds Function at Virginia Tech for CSA's consideration. After briefly summarizing the purpose of the proposed Ombuds office, a motion was made to approve the Joint Resolution; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

Ms. Jaclyn Marmol, Vice President of the Asian American Student Union (AASU), presented proposed amendments to the AASU Constitution. Ms. Marmol noted that the suggestions made by CSA during the first reading of the amendments are now incorporated into the Constitution. A motion was made to approved the amendments; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Mr. Chan announced that the Office of Budget and Financial Planning will be visiting CSA to present their proposal of 2017-18 tuition and fees plan, ahead of its approval vote at the Board of Visitors meeting. Because of scheduling conflict, Mr. Chan inquired if CSA members are willing and available for a special meeting to be held on Tuesday March 28th 3:30pm – 5pm. Commission members were amenable to this arrangement, and note that while some of them cannot attend due to other commitments on that date, they will work to send a substitute.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled CSA meeting will be held on March 23, 2017, in the Brush Mountain Room at Squires Student Center.

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made at 4:14 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

Recorder: Tracy Newton