

MINUTES

Commission on Student Affairs Meeting

March 24, 2016

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Squires Student Center – Brush Mountain Room

Attendees

Byron Hughes, Susan Anderson, Margaret Appleby, Pat Finn, Reid Thomas, Panisa Jiumdumneakij, Alicia Cohen, Evan Robohm, Zach Greenwald, Luke Carroll,

Guests

Call to Order

At 3:33 PM, Chair Jackie Fisher called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Morgan Sykes made a motion to approve the agenda; Matt Chan seconded, the agenda was approved.

Honors College Presentation

Dr. Paul Knox, Director of University Honors, came to the Commission in order to give a brief presentation on the transition of the University Honors program into an Honors College and to solicit feedback from Commission members.

Dr. Knox explained that he and his staff had been observing other colleges and universities in order to find ways to improve our honors college. In order to provide more opportunity to students through full scholarships, internships, gap years, and gap semesters, the honors program is planning on becoming its own, non-degree granting honors college. The majority of the plan to become a college is still tentative, however, Dr. Knox hopes that his team will be able to have a comprehensive plan to present to the President, Provost, and Charles Phlegar by June 2016. In the current plan, the amount of honors students is not expected to expand, but the experience of each honors student is expected to be enriched.

Matt Chan asked for Dr. Knox to elaborate on the practical differences between an honors program and an honors college. Dr. Knox shared that it gives the department head the title of dean for greater interaction with faculty leadership and administration to aid with quicker transfer of information, as well as change the budget of the program.

Matt Chan asked how this college will foster relationships with graduate students and Dr. Knox replied by saying that they hope to incorporate graduate students into the honors college by providing jobs, teaching positions, and research opportunities.

Margaret Appleby asked if the Honors College would be open to International students and Dr. Knox said yes.

Chair Fisher asked what happens to the Honors Residential College with the addition of an Honors College. The HRC will have to change their name due to the recommendation of the Provost.

New Business

A. First Reading of CSA Resolution 2015 – 2016 C: Revision and Expansion of the Statement on Self-Reporting and Bystander Intervention for Student Code of Conduct

Rohsaan Settle, Director of Student Conduct, came to the Commission to present his resolution on the Revision and Expansion of the Statement on Self-Reporting and Bystander Intervention for Student Code of Conduct.

Mr. Settle began by explaining that people often assume that Student Conduct is a bad experience and filled with punishment or shame, with strong ties to the criminal justice system. Mr. Settle expressed that Student Conduct is not like those preconceived constructs, but instead, is student focused, learning centered, relationally driven, community minded.

Mr. Settle explained that the policy change is in attempt to have student conduct become more student centered. The Students for Sensible Drug Policy brought to Mr. Settle's attention that, in the "bystander intervention and self-reporting" policy, if a student needs medical help and an external party calls the medical services, the student who needed the medical services is still at risk of being processed through Student Conduct. The resolution hopes to be revised to create better transparency and descriptions about self-reporting and include that the individual in need of assistance will not be immediately given conduct charges, but instead will be issued educational requirements to prevent future violations or emergencies.

B. First Reading of CSA Resolution 2015-2016 D: Expansion of the Drug Policy for Student Code of Conduct CSA Resolution

Rohsaan Settle, Director of Student Conduct, also came to the Commission to present his resolution on the Expansion of the Drug Policy for Student Code of Conduct. This policy leans towards a community minded initiative and comes from experiences and trends observed by student conduct. To clarify the importance of using controlled substances properly, student conduct suggests that the language “misusing and abusing” controlled substances be included in the illegal drug policy. Students can face student conduct disciplinary action if they use their prescription medicine improperly and directly affect community members.

Margaret Appleby asked how this language would be affectively conveyed to international students. Mr. Settle said he would work with Cranwell international center to provide clarity for international students.

Matt Chan suggested that the Hokie Handbook might not be the best place for this language, and that an additional educational piece could be included to better clarify these language discrepancies to students. Mr. Settle said the expanded policy (not included in Hokie Handbook) is much longer and more detailed. These expanded versions can be found in the Student Code of Conduct.

Zach Greenwald asked if ‘using’ would be clarified by adding a statement saying ‘proper use of prescribed medicine would not be in violation to student conduct.’ Mr. Settle said that the word ‘using’ falls under illegal drugs. Matt Chan suggested that adding “illegally” in front of “using” to better clarify the sanctions.

Susan Anderson asked if we could put one sentence stating, “proper use of prescribed medicine would not be in violation of student conduct.”

Dr. James Orr said that if a student were using medicine properly it would not proceed through student conduct. Susan said the language should be clear for all students to read, explaining that it could be helpful to add a sentence to better specify the difference between properly using prescribed medicine versus abusing controlled substances.

Aliana Harrison brought up that even with that additional statement, those reporting would not likely make a student prove that their medicine was legal or not, and that they would let the process handle those circumstances.

Matt Chan brought up that we may be taking this issue out of context a bit but he recommends that we can facilitate a meeting with Mr. Settle to decide whether this needs further clarification because we do have concerns but could use additional context.

First Reading of HokiePride Constitution Changes

Evan, Campus Liaison of HokiePride, came to the commission to present changes to the HokiePride constitution. A few grammatical and clarity suggestions were made in order to improve the constitution.

Commission, Committee, and Sub-Committee Updates

Committee on CSA Operation Manual and Committee on Religious Holidays have been stalled due to the increased need for CSA agenda items, but these committees will have updates in the future.

Announcements

Chair Fisher shared that we will begin meeting EVERY WEEK unless otherwise noted so please try to attend and if you cannot, sent a representative.

Tuna shared that SGA elections are going on until tomorrow at 5pm. SGA executive applications are available until next Monday.

Dr. Charles Murray is speaking tomorrow at 3:30pm to speak at the Inn and there will be a protest being held at 2:30pm outside of the Inn. Also, there will be another lecture held tomorrow.

Dr. Perillo shared that Tricia Smith will be welcoming students to gather between 2-4pm in the BCC tomorrow to aid with the confusion and apprehension surrounding the speaker tomorrow.

Zach Greenwald shared that Jewish Cultural Month is ongoing, all events are posted online at the JSU facebook page. All events are open to the public. This Friday is Mental Health Shabbat at Hillel. Next Monday March 28 Ambassador Dennis Ross will be speaking at 7pm in Haymarket.

Susan Anderson shared that Take Back the Night is this coming Wednesday, March 30th at 7pm.

Lauren Surface shared that there will be a graduate cookout tomorrow at GLC from 4:30-6pm.

Hokie Pride is hosting annual pride week for the first week of April. Spring Drag Show is April 7th in Squires Commonwealth.

Adjournment

Morgan Sykes made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Matt Chan, and passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.