

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, March 26, 2015

3:30-5:00 PM

Squires Student Center – Brush Mountain Room

Present:

Tuna Shankar, Matthew Chan, Joseph Edens, Jackie Fisher, Lauren Surface, Austin Larrowe, Ethan Poole, Sapna Singh-designee for Brian Tran, Alicia Cohen, Jake Tully-designee for Elizabeth Lazor, Greg Purdy, Daniel Ridenour-designee for Eric Wetzel, Hunter Gresham -designee for Patty Perillo Claire Childress, Rudney Danquah, Ashley Francis, Mary Ann Lewis, Robert Sebek, Cathye Betzel, Kristina Gallagher – designee for Kaleigh Leal

Absent:

Susan Anderson, Erica Bassuk, Noha Elsherbiny, Austin Dickey, Jean-Luc Ford, Austin Larrowe, Ricardo Zalles Reyes

Guests:

Steve Wong, Ryan Hopkins, Kyle Anderson, Velvin Aviles, Kylie Gilbert

I. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Joseph Edens, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. welcoming the group to today's meeting and reviewing the agenda items for discussion. Mr. Joe Edens asked for a motion to adopt the agenda; it was moved by Mr. Matt Chan, seconded by Ms. Tuna Shankar, and approved unanimously.

II. Presentations

No Presentations

III. Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business

IV. New Business

a. Graduate Student Assembly Constitutional Changes (First Reading)

Mr. Greg Purdy presented the proposed new GSA Constitution, stating that the current GSA Constitution is unclear on the internal structure of the organization, and is unable to ensure sustainable operations, as it is ineffective guidance to fulfill the mission of the GSA to serve graduate students at Virginia Tech.

b. FERPA Exceptions Discussion

Mr. Joe Edens explains that Wanda Dean, the Vice Provost of Enrollment and Degree Management, has asked the Commission the opinions on making Virginia Tech e-mail addresses automatically public under the FERPA Exception list. The Commission explains feelings of concern that information could be sold if this information was to be made public, but overall the Commission feels that a majority of students are unaware that their records can be marked as confidential or not, so regardless of the decision, members of the Commission feel that this ability to mark confidentiality should be better communicated to the students. After discussion, the majority of the commission believes that home phone numbers and addresses should be automatically confidential, while e-mail addresses should not.

V. Commission/Committees/Sub-Committee Updates

The Student Budget Board Policy Committee is trying to make major changes to the SBB Policy, as it does not currently state structure very well. There is currently very little interaction between CSA and SBB, so an idea was discussed about possibly having the student chair of SBB sit as an ex-officio member of CSA.

VI. Announcements

The Board of Visitors Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meets Monday, March 30, 2015 at 8:00 AM in Smithfield Room at the Inn at Virginia Tech. VT News and the Board of Visitors websites both have lists of other open sessions occurring that day.

Take Back the night is Tonight, March 26, at 7:00 PM in the Haymarket Theater.

There will be a big, free Cookout tomorrow, March 27, at 4:30 PM with balloon animals and food on the Grad School Lawn.

For undergraduates, the SGA Elections are currently happening now until tomorrow, March 27, at midnight. Go to www.sga.vt.edu for information, as well as the link to GobblerConnect to vote. Results will be announced on Monday, March 30th as long as there are no infractions.

Ring Dance tickets are sold out, but in order to increase the Ring Dance Spirit, T-shirts are still for sale for \$10.

VII. Adjournment

With no further announcements or business, Mr. Joe Edens, chair, entertained a motion to adjourn; Mr. Greg Purdy motioned and Mr. Matt Chan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.