

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, April 5th, 2012

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

Present: Chris Atkins, Matt Banfield, Sandy Bass, Tyler Campbell, Naomi Dam, Lester Schonberger for Corbin DiMeglio, Rick Ferraro, Monika Gibson, Allie Golden, Michael Goodwin, Jake Grohs, Atieh Haghdoost, Zack Helmtoller, Billi Hockman, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson, Mary Ann Lewis, Chris McDonough, Ashley Bosely for Kelley McKew, Michelle McLeese, Margaret McQuain, Shree Narayanan, Nikki Roy, Caroline Sapyta, Robert Sebek, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Frank Shushok, Ed Spencer, Jay Tucker, Emily Wilkinson

Guests: Brett Barber, Scott Barnard, Andrew Benoit, Casey Bernhards, Cory Bernhards, Steve Burrell, Rebecca Coryell, Catherine Cotrupi, Louis DiLazio, Casey Engel, Luke Foster, Tyler Hunt, Christopher Mortweet, Matt Paluszek, Claire Wiklund, Dane Wimberley, Erica Wohlleben

I. Call to Order

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

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made to adopt the agenda for the April 5, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded, carried, and the agenda was adopted.

III. Welcome from Chair

Mr. Bass welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for the next item on the agenda.

IV. Icebreaker – Show and Tell, Vice-Chair Rawlin Jefferson

a. Monica Hunter – *Budget Board Advisor*

Ms. Hunter shared a photo from the very first Hokie Camp, which was held in 2008. The picture was of a Hokie Track and right next to it a leaf that looked just like the Hokie track. Ms. Hunter added that even mother nature is a Hokie!

b. Michael Goodwin – *Jewish Student Union*

Mr. Goodwin noted that tomorrow is Passover and he brought and passed around a box of Matzos to share.

V. Guest Speaker(s)/Presenter(s)

a. 2nd Reading of LGBTA Constitution Changes – *Caroline Sapyta*

Ms. Sapyta presented the 2nd reading of the resolution for LGBTA constitution revisions.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and approved.

b. Budget Board Process and Guidelines – *Monica Hunter & Steve Burrell*

Ms. Hunter reviewed the Student Budget Board Annual Funding Strategy for 2012-2013 highlighting actual funding allocations, funding strategies and the appeals process. Following her review, she asked for volunteers to serve on the appeals committee, if needed. Those volunteering were: Margaret McQueen, Robert Sebak, Kaitlin Shugart-Schmidt, Michelle McLeese, Emily Wilkinson, Matt Banfield, Nikki Roy, and Rawlin Jefferson.

Mr. Burrell shared a proposed document addressing funding policies and procedures for RSO's and also a document that included background/history, the mission, eligibility requirements to request funding, the appeals process, the various types of funding, etc. He did note that one of the biggest changes is that there will now be a requirement that organizations be registered with Student Centers and Activities by 5:00 p.m. on Friday of the fourth week of the fall semester, annually. Following Mr. Burrell's presentation, a motion was made to approve the document as presented. The motion was seconded, and the document was approved.

c. Gender Identity in Language – *Catherine Cotrupi*

Catherine Cotrupi, LGBTQ Coordinator distributed to the membership for their information a handout that included:

- A goal to add Gender Identity and Expression to Virginia Tech's Anti-Discrimination Policy.
- A NCAA policy that essentially states that transgender student athletics should be allowed to play on the team of the gender with which they identify.
- Gender Inclusive Restrooms: to include at least two lockable, single occupancy restrooms in all new constructions on campus. Being able to have access to lockable, single-occupancy, gender inclusive restrooms benefits those using them with privacy and security and will increase their overall comfort level navigating around campus. Dr. Spencer suggested changing the number of restrooms to at least one restroom, which might bode better budget-wise.

In response to a question, it was noted that a cost analysis is a part of the plan.

d. Sustainable and Competitive Alta Gracia Clothing – Dr. Dale Wimberley and Rebecca Coryell

Ms. Coryell introduced members of the Alta Gracia Coalition and stated that their purpose for being at CSA was to give some background and information in regards to their request to the University Bookstore to support sustainability and the working wage by purchasing their collegiate apparel from Alta Gracia, an apparel factory in Villa Alta Gracia, Dominican Republic, which pays a living wage as opposed to purchasing collegiate licensed apparel that are made out of the country, in poor working conditions, and where workers are paid far below the local living wage. The Coalition is asking CSA to endorse a letter they have written to the University Bookstore management, which calls on the bookstore to commit to placing a large apparel order to Alta Gracia Apparel. They would also like for CSA members to share this information with the constituents they represent.

Dr. Spencer noted that contracts that Athletics have with other companies such as Nike, may or may not affect the Bookstore's stance and that if they are not getting a response from the Bookstore, they should go to the Chair of the Board of Directors. Ms. Hunter also suggested that they talk with SGA to see if there is something that can be worked out with them and where they get their Maroon Effect shirts.

Dr. Spencer made a motion that the Commission defer a vote on this until the next meeting and that Mr. Bass write to Don Williams informing him that the commission has heard this resolution and would like to get their take on it, noting that in general the Commission does support this type of principle. The question was called, then Ms. Shugart-Schmidt made a motion to write a letter on behalf of the Commission supporting the idea of responsible purchasing in general by the University. After further discussion, Ms. Shugart-Schmidt withdrew her motion and the question was called on the original motion made by Dr. Spencer. The motion carried and Mr. Bass will prepare a letter to go to Mr. Williams.

VI. Old Business

a. Stadium Woods Issue – Proposed Resolution

i. Cory Bernhards and Sandy Bass

Mr. Bernhards, representing the roller hockey teams, presented another side of the Stadium Woods Issue, noting that if the athletic facility is not built in the woods, the most likely location will be where the tennis courts and hockey rink are located. He shared obstacles that they have had to overcome prior to obtaining a rink space, that they have bought \$12,000 in new boards for the rink; there are 87 players making up eight teams. There are faculty/staff/local residents that play and this is the only roller hockey rink in Southwest Virginia. The rink is named in honor of Tom Rovito, who died a couple of years ago, so it also serves as a memorial. If the rink is torn down a second time, it will be devastating to the club and alumni who donated. The tennis courts are also used by hundreds of students and it is also where the men's and women's club tennis teams compete. There was also mention of the diversity and culture associated with Roller Hockey. The request of the Commission is to take into account all sides of the stadium woods debate before a recommendation is given. Dr. Ferraro noted that the original agreement is that if the facility is constructed in the area of the tennis courts/roller hockey rink, that the tennis courts and rink would be reconstructed in another location.

There was then discussion on the CSA resolution supporting protection of Stadium Woods. Corrections, additions, and an amendment were noted for revisions followed by a motion to approve, which was seconded and carried.

VII. New Business

a. Letter to CT – *Sandy Bass*

The letter to the CT was reviewed, revisions were made, and Mr. Bass will send out to the Commission for a vote.

b. Nominations for 2012-2013 Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Bass opened for floor for nominations for the 2012-13 Commission on Student Affairs Chair. Those nominated were: Tyler Campbell and Michael Goodwin. Nominations for Vice Chair were: Shaimma Abdallah and Dustin Dorph. Any other nominations should be forwarded to Mr. Bass, Ms. Rogers, or Dr. Spencer and voting will take place at the April 19 meeting.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.