

MINUTES

Commission on Student Affairs Meeting

April 7th, 2016

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Squires Student Center – Brush Mountain Room

Attendees

Margaret Appleby, Ben Rivera, Jimmy McClellan, Byron Hughes, Evan Robohm, Zach Greenwald, Panisa Jiumdumneankij, Alicia Cohen, Lauren Surface, Greg Purdy, Tuna Shankar, Tara Reel, Morgan Sykes, Jackie Fisher, Matt Chan, Mohammed Seyam, Hunter Gresham, Patty Perillo

Guests

Darren Small, Max Tarshis, Regine Parks, Abigail Lewis, Gina Tamburro, Joe Edens

Call to Order

At 3:34pm, Chair Jackie Fisher called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Morgan Sykes made a motion to approve the agenda; Margaret Appleby seconded, the agenda was approved.

Old Business

A. Homecoming Board Constitution Changes: 2nd Reading

Abigail Lewis, From the Homecoming Board presented the second reading of the Constitution changes. The only major change was adding the Virginia Tech's non-discrimination policy.

Jackie Chair opened the floor for discussion

Morgan made a motion to vote and Tuna seconded and the constitution passed unanimously.

B. Graduate Student Assembly Constitution Changes: 2nd reading

Matt Chan, President of GSA, presented on Graduate Student Assembly's Constitution Changes. Matt thanked Susan Anderson for helping edit the Constitution and nothing else was changed but those editorial points. He reminded the group that they were creating a new member of exec board, include a clarification of term length, and removed the specific wording of staff.

Matt Chan moved and Greg Purdy seconded to move into discussion. With no discussion, Chair Fisher moved to a vote and the Constitution passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Student Budget Board Policy Changes: 1st Reading

Darren Small and Regine Parks, Student Budget Board Vice Chair and Chair, presented on Student Budget Board Policy Changes. The changes in the policies were made in order to provide more clarity in how the policies are set and how the resources provided by Budget Board can best be used. Many changes were also made in effort to make the policies more understandable for the average student.

The relationship to CSA had not changed, and the membership process has changed and has been explicitly stated, as Homecoming Board and Big Event were given seats on the Board because of their newly declared UCSO status. Membership appointments will remain the same, but now SBB is requiring an official proxy in cases of absence so that the board can make trained decisions, as absences will now be more strictly enforced.

Regine explained that, while providing full funding for all organizations would be great, it is simply not feasible. She further explains the purpose of Budget Board is not to fund events in full, but rather, to supplement organizations so that events may take place, and that there are 750 RSO's that ask for money from Budget Board, and the policies that are being put in place are meant to help distribute the wealth among these organizations.

Organizations that are not considered "competitive organizations" will be limited in travel funding in order to close a loophole which allowed organizations to request funds for more conferences, etc. than the policies actually allowed for.

Clarifications were made about payment for events and reimbursements including time limits and requirements, alcohol/alcohol licenses, awards, contracts/honoraria, employment, giveaways, insurance, mailing, off campus events.

Off Campus events must be limited and qualifications are better articulated.

Practices and Rehearsals were added to specify that they will not be funded.

Tuna Shankar asked about a clause in the older version of the policies concerning political speakers. Gina Tamburro shared that that clause was removed because SBB is policy based and it was not possible to enforce the clause without being biased.

Room Rental fees will not be funded. This is a cut strategy adapted into policy.

Team registration fees will be funded at a maximum of \$500.

Towing Services will not be funded.

Graduation Cords and Stoles will not be funded.

RSO Appeals and Process for Appeals were completely revamped and wording was added and corrected so that the process will be more standardized.

Discussion began.

Zach Greenwald asked how new UCSOs will be incorporated into membership. Regine Parks responded by saying that the presented document is trying to modify what was already written and they will have to add new policy specifications in the future. Gina Tamburro said those specifications are being better clarified along with membership to Order of the Gavel, SBB seats, etc.

Tuna Shankar asked them to elaborate on the policy of Alcohol being activity served. Regine Parks said that there are many venues on campus where you can get an alcohol license for that day, however that will disqualify those venues from being used. SBB is not able to fund any part of an event that will serve alcohol.

Matt asked what would happen in the event that neither the member, nor proxy could attend the meeting. Budget Board asked for suggestions on how they could make sure that an emergency substitute has enough knowledge to make an educated decision. Matt suggested they leave the emergency substitute situations up to the discretion of the Board in order to ensure that organizations are not limited by the policy.

Matt Chan asked how Student Budget Board will enforce policies surrounding team and individual competition funding. Regine Parks said that each request will be accompanied by the Board's expertise, and that they will have access to the previous spending by organization.

Matt Chan explained that the term "educational giveaways" can be very subjective, and that it may not be a good idea to include it in the Constitution. Student Budget Board re-emphasized that this document will be a living document and that not every single issue has been addressed, but they are continuing to modify and improve what they have.

Matt Chan suggested several grammatical edits.

B. Student Budget Board Annual Funding Cut Strategies

Max Tarshis and Regine Parks presented on Student Budget Board Annual Funding Cut Strategies. Regine Parks went over the new Appropriation Strategy and broke down the amounts given for each faction.

Matt Chan asked about Student Legal Services and where it's funding is coming from. Joe Edens explained the makeup of Student Legal Services and why the university partially funds it.

Matt Chan moved to extend the meeting for ten minutes and Morgan Sykes seconded. The motion passed.

Regine then presented about Student Budget Board 2016-2017 Annual Funding Cut Strategies. Budget Board was asked for \$1.3 million and only had approx. \$700,000.

Publicity was cut pack, copy/printing was capped at \$200, general office supplies capped at \$150, and resource material maximum is \$100. No giveaways were funded.

Regine provided some context for the large cuts from VTU and BSA because of the lack of accountability for money they've received in previous years.

Morgan Sykes made a motion to extend the meeting another ten minutes and Matt Chan seconded. The motion passed.

Tuna Shankar explained that these percentages are only based on the precedent and it seems like it rewards organizations for requesting more money because 48% of \$50,000 plus is more than 80% of \$20,000. Max responded that Student Budget Board needed to establish some sort of starting point by using these previous numbers. The tier system based on sizes does not take out all bias, but Student Budget Board found it as the fairest way that they could establish this year.

Greg Purdy echoed Tuna's concern and advised Student Budget Board to be careful with this system because, as the board moves forward, we don't want small organizations to be isolated or overshadowed by large groups. Regine answered that this chart is only being used for this year, and that changes will be made in the future.

Dr. Perillo and Gina Tamburro shared that resources are not increasing as fast as the organizations.

Tuna Shankar suggested creating a "loan program" for organizations that will make a profit from the event, like VTU with Fetty Wap. Regine answered that they usually use these profits for other events, and that a loan system may be too complicated legally for the board to handle.

Announcements

Evan invited the commission to the drag show tonight at 7pm.

Zach shared that tomorrow there will be a Hillel interfaith service at 6PM at 710 Toms Creek Road. Next week there will be a civil rights workshop and Jewish Gospel session in Old Dominion on Tuesday at 6pm and Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) at the GLC 7pm.

Greg mentioned the Beer and Wine social hosted by GSA at 5pm on Friday

Adjournment

Morgan Sykes made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tuna Shankar, and passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:21 PM.