

# MINUTES

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

April 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Commission chair Mr. Matt Chan at 3:32 p.m.

### In attendance

Susan Anderson, Travis Bauer, Julia Billingsley, Matt Chan, Alicia Cohen, Pat Finn, Amy Hermundstad, Byron Hughes, Alex Hylar, Delk Koolman, Jaclyn Marmol, Ron Mecham, Judith Skinker for Mairead Novak, Andrew Peck, Evan Robohm, Chris Saunders, Liang Shi, Angela Simmons, Lauren Surface, Gary Nave for Cameron Varano, Kisha Gresham for Meghna Verna, Hannah Whiteman

### Absent with notification

Tara Reel

### Attending guests

Joe Frazier, Rileigh Huntzinger, Fred Lamb, Emily Mawyer, Tracy Newton, Eryn Peters, Ahmed Salih, Jason Soileau, Gina Tamburro,

### Absent

Ben Calvo Rivera, Aliana Harrison, Meriam Nure, James Orr

### Approval of Agenda and Past Minutes

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

### Presentation

Mr. Jason Soileau, Assistant Vice President for Planning and University Architect, gave a presentation on the University Master Plan progress to date. The consulting firm, Sasaki and Associates, has visited the University a few weeks ago, and many initial ideas were presented. Some highlights include: reimagining the current region where Squires Student Center, the Graduate Life Center, the Art Annex and surrounding buildings, and the Moss Arts Center, all as a new Creativity and Innovation District (CID). In this proposal, most functions of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) will move into the CID, where Squires will no longer function as the main student commons. Citing student footprint and location during peak hours, the main student commons is proposed to be relocated to where Cowgill Hall and Burchard Hall currently are located. In a broader sense, the Master Plan recommends that each main district (e.g. Academic, Life Sciences, Student Life, etc.) shall contain some element of student commons, dining, and if needed student housing. Each of these districts is proposed to be connect by an "Infinite Loop", which is a pedestrian walkway with possible cycling accommodation. CSA members raised questions regarding accessibility, parking, and implementation consideration of the Master Plan. Mr. Soileau emphasized that the University is committed to go beyond the bottom line for accessibility implementation, but at this stage the Master Plan has not progress to the point to address implementation details. Mr. Chan thanked Mr. Soileau for the presentation and discussion, and encouraged his office to maintain dialogue with students throughout the process.

### Committee Reports

Mr. Chris Saunders, CSA vice chair and representative to the Hokie Handbook Review Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 12 to discuss continuing updates to the Hokie Handbook. A survey will be sent out in the near future to collect feedback from students regarding the new by-stander amnesty policy as related to student alcohol usage.

### Constituency Updates

Ms. Julia Billingsley gave an update on Student Government Association (SGA) activities. The SGA will be presented a series of events and programs to celebrate Earth Week, including a "Bike-to-Campus Day". In addition, application for Executive Branch Director positions will be due on the upcoming Sunday.

Ms. Alex Hyler gave an update on Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) activities. The GSA will be presenting a "Grad Jobs Week" with many programs and events that provide information to graduate students regarding their career after graduate school. GSA will also hold election for the 2017-18 Executive Board Officers in the coming weeks.

Mr. Delk Koolman noted that there is no report from the Board of Visitors student representatives.

### **University Council and Commission Updates**

Mr. Andrew Peck gave a report of University Council activities. New degree programs including the Masters of Science in Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health have been approved. In addition, the amendment to the University Calendar Critical changing fall semester from 72 to 71 days, and having Labor Day to be a non-class day, has been approved.

Mr. Saunders reported that there the Commission on Equal Opportunities and Diversity (CEOD) met on April 10 and the Ombuds Resolution that was previously deliberated at CSA was discussed. CEOD members had concerns on whether or not the proposed Ombuds office would be a mandated reporting office for Title IX-related incidences. The discussion did not reach a conclusion. Other items that was discussed include difficulties the University encounters when converting or building gender-neutral bathrooms due to complications stemming from state building codes.

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 noted that is no specific update from the Division, and encouraged CSA student members to take care of themselves during this stressful period of the semester.

### **Unfinished Business**

Ms. Raleigh Huntzinger, Director of Court of the Homecoming Board (HCB), presented their constitution amendment for second reading. There were new additional amendments introduced to address CSA members' concerns raised during the first reading. Mr. Chan noted that there is still confusion and some lack of clarity on the proposed amended constitution, but encouraged the HCB to continue to work on the document in the future to strengthen it. A motion was made to accept the newly introduced amendments since the first reading, it was seconded and unanimously approved. A motion was then made for approving the HCB constitution amendment in its entirety, it was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Fred Lamb, vice chair of the Student Budget Board (SBB), and Ms. Eryn Peters, chair-elect of the SBB, presented the SBB annual funding allocation and strategy for second reading. Mr. Lamb noted an amendment was made since the first reading to strike the language for funding GSA elections on the grounds that GSA elections are not opened to the entire graduate student body. A motion was made to accept the newly introduced amendment since the first reading, it was seconded and unanimously approved. A motion was then made for approving the SBB annual funding allocation and strategy in its entirety, it was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Chan presented Resolution CSA 2016-17A: Resolution on CSA Membership for second reading. Mr. Chan reminded CSA members that this resolution recommends amending the University Council By-Laws to mandate CSA to keep a set of membership criteria to improve consistency when evaluating new requests by student organizations and/or communities for CSA membership. A motion was made to approve the resolution, it was seconded and unanimously approved. The resolution will now be forwarded to the University Council for approval.

Mr. Ahmed Salih, president of the Muslim Student Union (MSU), and Mr. Joe Frazier, faculty advisor to the MSU, presented Resolution CSA 2016-17B: Resolution to include the President of the MSU to CSA Membership for second reading. Mr. Chan reminded CSA members that this resolution recommends amending the University Council By-Laws to include the MSU President as a member of CSA. A minor amendment was moved by Mr. Peck to correct the proper naming of MSU in light that it is a University Chartered Student Organization, it was seconded and unanimously approved. A motion was made to approve the resolution, it was seconded and unanimously approved. The resolution will now be forwarded to the University Council for approval.

## **New Business**

Mr. Lamb and Ms. Peters from the SBB presented a set of amendments to the SBB Policy and Procedures. The amendments are extensive, but the main objective is to provide clarity and fairness. There are now two sets of policies and procedures, one for University Chartered Student Organizations (UCSOs), and one for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and University Student Life Programs (USLPs). Proposed substantive changes include:

- Procedural clarification of membership reinstatement in the case of membership lost
- Establishment of a summer SBB committee to evaluate urgent summer funding requests
- Changes to collaborative events to encourage active collaboration between student organizations
- Clarification of RSOs/USLPs funding request categories
- With very limited exceptions, storage costs will no longer be funded
- "Giveaways" are fundable unless they are promotional items that are event/organization specific
- Clarification of publicity funding
- Clarification of UCSOs annual funding reallocation process

CSA members raised additional recommendations for SBB to address in their policy and procedures, including relationship between CSA and SBB, the approval process of funding appropriation, and many minor clarifications.

## **Announcements**

Mr. Chan announced on behalf of Ms. Liang Shi, president of the Council of International Student Organizations, that the annual International Street Fair will be held on April 23, and encouraged CSA members to spread the word, attend, and volunteer to help if possible.

## **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled CSA meeting will be held on April 20, 2017, in the Brush Mountain Room at Squires Student Center.

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made at 5:29 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

Recorder: Tracy Newton