

## COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

April 21, 2011

**Present:** Sandy Bass, Sara Brickman, Tom Brown, Sue Buyrn, Tyler Campbell, Michael Cardman, Rick Ferraro, Monika Gibson, Caroline Gimenez, Bo Hart, Lauren Heming, Shree Narayanan for Eric Hodges, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson, Designee for Pamella Palmer, Brad Klein, Nathan Lavinka, Ana LoMascolo, Michelle McLeese, Jonathan Moore, David Ramras, Robert Sebek, Katelin Shugart-Schmidt, Designee for Kim Carlson, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Leighton Vila, Alex Walker, Emily Wilkinson, Designee for Greer Kelly

**Absent:** Ryan Anderson, Parisa Ahmadi, Designee for Lubna Chowdhury, Deepu George, Frank Hernandez, Frances Kwong, Designee for Richmond Hwang, Mary Ann Lewis, Shane McCarty, Matt Parker, Frank Shushok, Shyrah Thomas, Joe Tran, Designee for Dani Bernabe

**Guests:** Steve Burrell, Shanaja Conner, J. Corbin DiMeglio, Kristen Houston, Anna Isserow, Jason Moskewitz, Thomas Schlyel, Bryan West

### I. Call to Order

Nathan Lavinka, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

### II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made to adopt agenda. The motion was seconded and the agenda was approved.

### III. Welcome and Chair Update (s)

- Mr. Lavinka reported that a letter of support on policy 5000 went to Dr. Sherwood Wilson, who will send it on to the appropriate channels and will get back to us with a response.
- CEOD – Dr. Sims announced that a Diversity Progress Summit will be held on April 27, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., in the Graduate Life Center Multipurpose Room. This session will focus on what has been done at Virginia Tech surrounding the issues of diversity. Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, etc. and representatives from University leadership will give a history of diversity at VT.
- Mr. Lavinka expressed his thanks to those who attended the CSA transition meeting last Thursday.

### IV. Guest Speakers/Presenters

- A. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Tim Hodge, University Budget Director, *2011-2012 University Budget*

Mr. Shelton gave an update on where the elements of the budget are and the financial situation with the State. He also noted that they met with the Board this morning and they did approve a set of tuition and fees which will be in the press soon, noting that they do understand the impact of these changes and have tried to be sensitive to the effect it has on our student body.

Mr. Hodge provided some background information on what is going on with the budget, beginning with what's going on with the state budget noting that since 2007, Virginia has had to manage \$7 billion in reductions and the impact on education will continue through 2012. Next year, Virginia Tech will be dealing with a total reduction of \$34 million dollars.

He reviewed the cost drivers which include: utility costs, operation and maintenance of facilities, student aid, availability of course sections, library costs, unfunded mandates, prior commitments (example: health insurance for graduate students on assistantship), and technology investments.

Mr. Hodges reviewed the 2011-2012 Tuition and Fee Development and distributed a handout which included the tuition rates for 2011-2012 that were approved by the Board of Visitors:

- In-State Undergraduate Students: tuition and fees will rise \$920. The total annual average cost for a Virginia undergraduate student living on campus with a meal plan will increase from \$15,879 to \$17,365.
- Out-of-State Undergraduate Students: tuition and fees will increase \$1,263. The total annual average cost for a Virginia undergraduate student living on campus with a meal plan, will increase from \$29,507 to \$31,336.

Significant cuts in funding on the state level and a loss of stimulus funding, is the reason for the increase.

Information was also shared with the Commission on how we rank in regards to tuition and fees with other schools in Virginia and with our Peer Institutions.

## V. Old Business

- A. Monica Hunter, Associate Director of Campus Programs, Steve Burrell, Assistant Director of Student Organizations, *Budget Board Allocations Sub-Committee*

Ms. Hunter distributed and reported on the proposed changes for types of funding for RSO's in particular. Steve Burrell assisted Ms. Hunter in answering questions that were raised and taking recommendations on changes that need to be made to the types of funding available.

A motion was made to support these recommendations; the motion was seconded. The motion carried.

- B. Lauren Heming, Black Organizations Council, *Constitutional Amendments/Revisions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*

Ms. presented the second reading for the Black Organizations Council Constitutional Amendments/Revisions explaining changes that have been made.

Following her presentation, the motion was made and seconded to approve the constitutional changes. The motion carried.

C. Bo Hart, SGA President, *Constitutional Amendments/Revisions, 2<sup>nd</sup>*, Reading

Mr. Hart presented the second reading recapping discussion from previous meeting regarding Executive Officer positions elected or appointed. There was discussion regarding both the pros and cons of this change and recommendations that might be considered, including a concern that the secretary and treasurer would not be elected officers. Ms. Hunter noted that not all UCSOs even have secretaries or treasurers. Following discussion, the motion was made to pass the requested changes. A motion was also made to delete (**amend**) the requirement for University Council to approve all changes to the constitution. The motion was seconded and the motion carried with one abstention. The motion on the constitution changes was then made again, and seconded, and the motion carried with three abstentions.

D. Emily Wilkinson, SGA Vice President, Michelle McLeese, GSA President, *Renumeration for Student Leaders Subcommittee Update*

Ms. Wilkinson and Ms. McLeese presented the pros, cons, and options for renumeration for student leaders. A hand out was distributed noting the pros and cons and the six positions recommended for compensation were: SGA and GSA Presidents, the Undergraduate and Graduate BOV Representatives, and the Undergraduate and Graduate Honor System Chief Justices. It was recommended that this conversation be continued next year with a newly appointed subcommittee for the 2011-12 Commission on Student Affairs, with a committee that is balanced so as to adequately represent the six positions as well as student leaders who are not part of these six positions. This will be pursued next fall.

E. Election of Next Year's Vice Chair and Chair. Nominees are Sandy Bass for Chair and Rawlin Jefferson for Vice Chair. Ms. Sue Buyrn was nominated from the floor for the position of Vice Chair. The nominations were closed. With the nominations as presented, a motion was made that Mr. Bass serve as the Standing Chair for the entire year and for the position of Vice Chair, Ms. Buyrn serve in the Fall and Mr. Jefferson serve in the Spring. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

F. The subcommittee will review one budget appeal from the Graduate Student Assembly over the course of the next week. If the subcommittee deems it necessary to carry forward, an appeal hearing will be held with all of CSA on Thursday, April 28, 3:30 p.m.

**VI. New Business – None**

## **VII. Announcements**

- Mr. Lavinka expressed his thanks to the Commission for a good year and wished them good luck for next year.
- An expression of thanks was also made to Mr. Lavinka.
- Ms. Hunter expressed congratulations to those who made Homecoming Court next year
- Hokie Effect T-shirts are now on sale.
- Ms. Hunter announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Student Activities/Athletics Student Appreciation Tailgate will be held on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm @ English Field
- The University Leadership Awards will be held on April 28, at 7:00 p.m., in the Commonwealth Ballroom.
- The Donning of the Kente ceremony will be held May 12, 2:00 p.m., in the Graduate Life Center Multipurpose Room.
- Ms. Buyrn announced that the Panhellenic Community lost Alpha Gamma Delta due to member decline.
- Dr. Klein clarified that when Mr. Shelton was talking about budget matters, he meant that faculty and staff have not received any raises in the last four years (they did receive a one-time bonus).

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:06:p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhonda Rogers, Secretary