

## **Commission on Student Affairs**

Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

**Present:** Shaimaa Abdallah, Chris Atkins, Cathy Betzel, Tyler Campbell, Claire Childress, Dustin Dorph, Chris Tam, Lauren Surface for Monika Gibson, Kiley Gilbert, Michael Goodwin, Jacob Grohs, Lauren Heming, Robyn Jones, Hamdy Mahmoud, Margaret McQuain, Nick Onopa, Patty Perillo, Caroline Sapyta, Robert Sebek, Jay Tucker

**Absent:** Erlan Guzman, Mary Ann Lewis, Kareim Oliphant, (positions still vacant-VP for Membership-GSA, GSA Doctoral Candidate, GSA Master's Candidate)

**Guests:** Ellen Plummer, Priscilla Alvarez, Michelle Sutherland, Lester Schanberger, Lauren Surface, Jaime Joslin, Anjelica Smith, Paige Waltz, Luke Hodge, Catherine Cotrupi, Randy Collins, Justin Camputaro, Monica Hunter, Guy Sims

### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Chris Atkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

### **II. Welcome from Chair**

Mr. Atkins welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and had everyone introduce themselves, including Dr. Patty Perillo, the new Vice President for Student Affairs.

### **III. Guest Speaker**

#### **a. University Governance Structure**

Mr. Atkins introduced Dr. Ellen Plummer, Assistant Provost, who shared information about the University administration and the governance structure. Following her presentation, Dr. Plummer introduced Dr. Randy Collins, an American Council on Education Fellow, who is here for a year shadowing Dr. McNamee.

#### **IV. Purpose of CSA**

a. CSA History - Dr. Sims

Dr. Guy Sims, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, gave a brief history and overview of CSA explaining that the Commission is a group of students who look at issues and concerns related to student life to develop policies that impact the lives of Virginia Tech students. Some of the items CSA has worked on over the past few years include:

- Reviewed, evaluated, and restructured the CSA membership;
- Reached an understanding with the Collegiate Times on their commenting system – they now have an appropriate use statement;
- Made a recommendation to Dr. Sherwood Wilson, Vice President for Administrative Services, to strike item #6 from Policy 5000, which did not allow extra-curricular activities 48 hours prior to exams;
- CSA was a strong supporter for the Actively Caring Program.
- CSA formed a sub-committee to review budget board funding strategies, clarifying language that made it easier to do business;
- CSA was a strong voice for preserving Stadium Woods; and,
- CSA is a forum to be informed of the highlights of student life.

#### **V. Old Business**

a. Board of Visitors (BOV) Update – Nick Onopa, Dr. Perillo  
Mr. Nick Onopa, the Undergraduate Representative to the Board Visitors, gave some highlights from the five BOV Committees, (Academic Affairs; Buildings and Grounds; Finance and Audit; Research; Student Affairs and Athletics). Some of the highlights of the BOV meeting were:

- Information session on the Virginia Tech branding strategy

- Update on and overview of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- Update on the work of the Office of Emergency Management
- Received Six-year briefing plan that focused on the global society.
- Overview of international affairs
- Update on the Summer Academy
- Approval of the 2012 Faculty Handbook
- Both students and faculty are working on the Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE)
- Advising continues to be reviewed in every college and department
- Virginia Tech is ranked in the top 25 in the area of sustainability
- Update on Hokie Camp
- Academic success of athletes and updated NCAA standards
- Resolution to build a propulsion lab

Dr. Perillo also reported that she has responsibility for the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee and for the first time in several years, all of the Committee members were new, so she did an orientation of Student Affairs and reported on highlights from all of the Student Affairs Departments in 2011-2012.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. SGA Letter & Discussion - Dustin Dorph  
Mr. Dustin Dorph, President, Student Government Association, distributed a letter to the members of CSA, which indicated a concern that the CSA lacks identity and purpose, that the SGA is structured not like other SGA's at our peer institutions, and that they both are governing bodies that are counter-productive. One concern is that under the current system, where resolutions have to go before CSA, it takes twelve weeks to get a resolution passed by the time it gets to University Council or the BOV.

Another issue is when looking at the mission statements of both groups, the mission of CSA is to shape policy and affect student life on campus which runs parallel with SGAs mission to empower and unify the student voice.

Following discussion, Mr. Atkins suggested that there be a task force or subcommittee formed to discuss these concerns so that this can be a collaborative process. It was also noted that there will be a joint Graduate Student Assembly/Student Government Association address on September 24, 7:00 p.m., in Squires Colonial Hall, to discuss some of these concerns.

Mr. Atkins called for the motion and motion was made to form a sub-committee to work on this task, the motion was seconded and carried. Volunteers who will be serving on the committee are: Dustin Dorph, Chair, Michael Goodman, Jay Tucker, Tyler Campbell, Caroline Sapyta, Shaimaa Abdallah, Nick Onopa, Chris Tam, and Chris Atkins. They will report back at the September 27 meeting.

b. Future Agenda Items and Set-up

Mr. Atkins will send out a VT survey to the Commission members to get future agenda items and he will bring that list back to the next meeting for discussion.

## **VII. Show and Tell**

In the interest of time, Dr. Perillo and Mr. Onopa, along with Michael Goodwin, will do the show and tell presentation and the September 27 meeting.

## **VIII. Announcements**

- September 17, 2:00 p.m., Rector Mike Quillen will be meeting with undergraduate students in the Mountain Lake Room in Squires Student Center.
- September 20, 10:00 a.m., Rector Quillen will be meeting with graduate students in the Graduate Life Center.
- September 24, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., The Graduate Student Assembly will be hosting the Graduate and Professional School

Fair for undergraduates in the Squires Commonwealth  
Ballroom

**VII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.