

MINUTES

Commission on Student Affairs Meeting

October 1, 2015

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Squires Student Center – Brush Mountain Room

Attendees

Samantha Reed, Greg Purdy, Matt Chan, Jackie Fisher, Jake Tully, Alexis Medina, Mohammed Seyam, Morgan Sykes, Lauren Surface, Megan Nguyen (substitute: Mikey Erb), Nicole Nguyen, Joycelynn Acheampong, Margaret Applby , Aliana Harrison, Pat Finn , Luke Carroll, Byron Hughes, Jared Coplon, James McClellan, Tuna Shankar, Brian Young, James Orr, Hunter Gresham

Guests

Jamie Williams, Tom Brown, Joe Edens

Call to Order

At 3:33pm, Chair Jackie Fisher called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Matt Chan made a motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Alexis Medina seconded, the agenda was approved.

Keystone Experience and GobblerConnect

Due to the fact that Dr. Perillo was on conference calls regarding the issued State of Emergency due to weather, Hunter Gresham facilitated the discussion regarding student leader opinion and feedback on GobblerConnect and Keystone Experience.

Students found that the new system of GobblerConnect is greatly improved, however, some students feel that they could better use GobblerConnect by better understanding its functions. Many students believe that there is still some disconnect between the student body and faculty in regards to usage of the new GobblerConnect. Many organizations use other forms of media to work with their organizations either due to convenience or past history with these forms of media.

Students seemed to know very little about the Keystone Experience and the app associated with it. When asked what the Keystone Experience is, students explained

that it created a co-curricular transcript to go along with an academic transcript, however, many students agreed that the only reason that they had heard of the Keystone Experience was a direct result of being in leadership positions, meaning that many constituencies are not as knowledgeable of the program. It was mentioned that the Keystone Experience may not be directed toward graduate school values and goals. When asked about how to better sell the Keystone Experience, members of the Commission mentioned that helping students to understand the benefits of it would be beneficial. Members also said that finding ways to have immediate social aspects incorporated into the Keystone Experience, as well as better defining some unclear terms such as “self-authored” would help to increase usage of the app.

Some students mentioned that the Aspirations for Student Learning can seem to be very unclear, especially for international students due to both language and cultural barriers. The aspirations are broad and can apply to anything and nothing at the same time, and many students have a hard time understanding what they truly mean.

Many students agreed that Strengths often resonate better with students, as they are more applicable to individuals, students living on campus are required to take the questionnaire, and strengths are much more widely known amongst constituents. Along with this, some members pointed out that strengths are more applicable to both the working world and personal relationships. Some members of the commission suggested that incorporating strengths into the Keystone Experience may increase involvement.

Questions regarding whether or not students truly value reflection began to arise, and some responded by mentioning that as student leaders, many members of the group do value reflection because of different experiences at Virginia Tech. Members pointed out that some students do not recognize the value of a situation until it has concluded, however, ideas of possibly incorporating reflection into first year experience classes could help first year students more frequently practice reflection.

Revisions to Undergraduate Honor Code

Dr. James Orr presented his findings from extensive studies concerning the Undergraduate Honor System in an effort to improve the system. Previously, it was believed that the Honor Code was more focused on catching cheaters, resulting in the criminalization of students who violated the honor code, rather than promoting academic integrity. After the Provost selected a revision committee to review the honor code, this group came together to create an honor code that was more fitting in today's society, as no major changes had been made to the Honor Code since the 1970's.

During a question and answer period, it was clarified that academic integrity modules are in place not only after an offence, but proactive measures are available as well. There are now measures in place to try and get students through the system both fairer and faster, as previously it could take multiple months to go through the Honor System. Commission members were suggested to clarify any updates made to the code and explaining any misconceptions to constituencies in order to promote this idea of academic integrity.

New Business

A. CSA “Bylaws”

In order to create more continuity and establish consistency from year to year, the commission wants to create some sort of operation manual for the commission.

A committee was formed by Mr. Matt Chan and Ms. Jackie Fisher in order to create this document. Mr. Greg Purdy, Mr. Jake Tully, and Ms. Alexis Medina volunteered to join the committee.

B. CSA Secretary

The CSA Secretary will rotate based on a schedule found in an e-mail previously sent out by Chair Fisher.

Announcements

Hunter Gresham explained that there was a school shooting in Oregon and that there are resources available on campus in case anyone is in need.

Pat Finn mentioned that Ring Premiere will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 8:00 PM.

Matt Chan said to download the Virginia Tech Moves app in order to gather data for the Parking and Transportation master plan.

Adjournment

Mr. Pat Finn made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jake Tully, and passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:56pm.