

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, October 2, 2014

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Squires Student Center – Brush Mountain Room

Present:

Susan Anderson, Cathye Betzel, Luke Carroll, Jackie Fisher-designee for CJ Caudill, Matthew Chan, Claire Childress, Alicia Cohen, Rudney Danquah, Joseph Edens, Jean-Luc Ford, Ashley Francis, Andrew George, Lauren Surface-designee for Monika Gibson, Elizabeth Lazor, Greg Purdy, Lester Schonberger, Robert Sebek, Jamaica Sykes, Sapna Singh-designee for Brian Tran, Ricardo Zalles Reyes, Eric Wetzel

Absent:

Noha Elsherbiny, Austin Larrowe, Mary Ann Lewis, Patty Perillo, Ethan Poole

Guests:

Angela Simmons, Jaime Williams

I. Call to Order

Mr. Lester Schonberger, vice chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. welcoming the group to today's meeting and reviewing the agenda items for discussion.

II. Opening Activity – Lester Schonberger

Mr. Schonberger explained a group relationship-building activity using the following questions for discussion:

- What is the most important thing you (or your constituency) have learned this year?
- What do you want yourself (or your constituency) to be doing in five years?
- What is one goal you have for yourself (or your constituency) in the next year?
- What is the greatest challenge you (or your constituency) are facing?
- What do you (or your constituency) value most?

Following the group activity, members were asked to sign up to present at a future commission meeting and to provide an overview of his/her constituency. Mr. Schonberger will send a follow up email noting the date when each constituency will present.

III. Presentations

a. Dr. Angela Simmons – Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Angela Simmons, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, thanked the commission for the opportunity to be with them today. She has been in this new position for about two months and provides leadership for Student Centers and Activities, VT Engage, The Leadership Education Collaborative, and New Student and Family Programs. Dr. Simmons' discussion focused on student engagement and ways to provide a meaningful student experience. When students have the opportunity to participate in educationally purposeful activities, they attain a higher quality of learning and educational experience. Moreover, a more engaged student achieves collegiate success and leaves Virginia Tech a better person than his/her current version.

Dr. Simmons mentioned the Aspirations for Student Learning:

- Commit to unwavering Curiosity
- Pursue Self-Understanding and Integrity
- Practice Civility
- Prepare for a life of Courageous Leadership
- Embrace *Ut Prosim* as a way of life

She briefly discussed the implementation of the Keystone Experience, designed to help students better understand and put into practice the Aspirations for Student Learning. A Keystone Field Guide and Keystone Experience “app” will be made available to students to assist in their Keystone journey.

Dr. Simmons extended an invitation to the commission to participate in working groups and provide feedback of their Keystone Experience and student engagement.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Commissions/Committees/Sub-Committees Updates

a. Sub-Committee on University Childcare

Mr. Greg Purdy and Ms. Ashley Francis met with Dean and Vice President for Graduate Education Karen P. DePauw and Graduate School Child Care Coordinator Marin Riegger. Mr. Matt Chan distributed minutes from the meeting.

The subcommittee identified two major goals to improve childcare support:

1. the need for assessment and data
2. maintaining the momentum of the cause

Virginia Tech administrators are in discussion about this need and while details are not available, the plan is to launch a child care program the beginning of next year.

Ms. Riegger has asked the subcommittee to assist with her needs assessment. The subcommittee will begin meeting every two weeks to discuss issues and develop an assessment by the end of fall semester. During November, the goal is to craft a letter from CSA, faculty and staff senates, and other commissions that reaffirms our commitment to child care.

Ms. Francis advised a connect social will be held for graduate and undergraduate students with children on October 3, 2014, 3:30-5:00pm in the Graduate Life Center, Room B. Dean DePauw and Ms. Riegger will be present and will announce three initiatives. An RSVP is requested but not required.

b. University Council Update (J. Edens)

Mr. Edens provided an update on the current work being done by each commission. Essentially, the bigger initiatives that each commission wants to work on this year were discussed including speakers and presentations, membership missions, religious holidays, self-plagiarism, new degrees, life-long learning institute, staff awards, and class enrollment (shop and drop) to name a few.

Mr. Matt Chan proposed that a representative from the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies (CUSP) speak at a future CSA meeting about class enrollment (shop and drop) and explain the process, answer questions, and clear up any confusion as it relates to adding and dropping classes.

Mr. Edens asked the commission to contact him or Mr. Lester Schonberger if there are other areas/issues that might be of interest.

VII. Announcements

a. CSA Appointments:

Mr. Edens asked the commission to contact him or Mr. Schonberger if interested in serving on one of the commissions listed below.

i. Academic Support Committee

ii. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Mr. Matt Chan announced the Virginia Science Festival begins this Saturday, October 4, 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Moss Arts Center. The festival runs through Saturday, October 11.

Mr. Chan invited members to the Tech Entrepreneurship Conference on November 14-15. Registration is limited to 35 students.

Mr. Luke Carroll mentioned the Ring Premier is Tuesday, October 17, 8:00pm in Burruss Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Free t-shirts will be available.

Ms. Rudney Danquah announced the Black Organizations Council (BOC) will hold a candlelight vigil in memory of Michael Brown on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30pm.

Mr. Joe Edens invited members to participate in the Aspirations for Student Learning Symposium on Monday, November 3. Students can register for free.

Ms. Ashley Francis invited members to attend the ice cream social and student performances on Friday, October 17 and the community pizza party on Saturday, October 18 as part of Dr. Sands' Presidential Installation.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further announcements or business, Mr. Joe Edens, chair, entertained a motion to adjourn; Mr. Matt Chan motioned and Mr. Eric Wetzel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.