

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, November 29th, 2012

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Brush Mountain Room – Squires Student Center

Present: Chris Atkins, Cathy Betzel, Tyler Campbell, Claire Childress, Dustin Dorph, Jessica Estarez, Monika Gibson, Kylie Gilbert, Michael Goodwin, Jacob Grohs, Robyn Jones, Kristen McCall, Margaret McQuain, Nick Onopa, Patty Perillo, Robert Sebek, Ryan Smith, Jay Tucker

Absent: Shaimaa Abdallah, Erlan Guzman, Lauren Heming, Mary Ann Lewis, Hamdy Mahmoud, Kareim Oliphant, Caroline Sapyta

Guests: Carolina Gimenez, Martha Glass, Brian Matthews, Lester Schonberger

I. Call to Order

Mr. Atkins called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Welcome from Chair

Mr. Atkins welcomed the members to the last meeting of the semester, reminding them that the December 6 meeting is cancelled.

III. Guest Speakers

a. Brian Mathews - Library Renovation

Brian Mathews, Associate Dean for Learning and Outreach, University Libraries, presented plans to renovate Newman Library that focus on the second floor. He also introduced Caroline Gimenez who serves on their Student Advisory Committee and has been heavily involved in the process.

Featured components of the design include:

- Hotel Lobby – meet and greet space
- Villages – flexible brainstorming and sharing spaces
- Neighborhoods – open group work areas
- Group Commons – intersection of villages and neighborhoods
- Marketplace – convergence of academic support with group work environment
- Knowledge Parks – focused areas for individuals and small groups to work with or without computers
- Learning studios – reservable group spaces

Benefits of the renovation include:

- Significant increase in the amount of space available for student

- groups to work together
- Creation of a dynamic mixture of areas that foster a wide range of learning experiences
- Enhancement of technology capabilities
- Expansion of instructional and academic support settings
- Increased interest in the library as a place for students to meet and engage with each other

CSA can assist through:

- Awareness
- Engagement
- Advocacy

Construction begins in June and it will be a three-year project.

For more information the url is www.lib.vt.edu/renovation

Dr. Perillo noted that this project could lead to an incredible partnership between the Library, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Graduate School.

b. Martha Glass - CSA Survey

Dr. Martha Glass distributed and reviewed the results of the CSA Survey. She reported that there were 19 respondents.

Recommendations from the survey call for:

- More collaboration and communication between groups and with university offices, and
- More transparency of procedures and processes.

Dr. Perillo noted that the results are consistent with things that she has heard from students during the past four months and that it is the responsibility of CSA to hear concerns and make recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs and other key departments and offices.

In response to a request for feedback, the following suggestions were made:

- There should be training for students who serve as leaders of organizations to strengthen the capacity of all organizations.
- Gobbler Connect could provide registrants with a PDF of frequently asked questions that would enhance the knowledge and skills of student leaders.
- Gobbler Connect could provide registrants with an automatic message informing them about available training opportunities.
- Student leaders need more training on general policies and

procedures, not just budget board processes.

- There should be a summer retreat for RSOs, similar to what is offered for UCSOs, which would provide the education needed to effectively run an organization.
- Consideration should be given to having faculty advisors for RSOs and a mechanism to maintain contact with alumni who can provide the background and history of the organization.
- Student organizations should be made aware that they can approach faculty about being advisors.

Nick Onopa moved that a committee be formed to address the survey recommendations and the motion was seconded by Tyler Campbell. The motion carried. The committee members are: Jessica Estarez, Michael Goodwin, Kylie Gilbert, and Dr. Perillo. The committee will report back at the next CSA meeting to be held on February 7.

IV. Committee Reports - None

V. Old Business

a. Student Forums

- Mr. Atkins announced that the next Student Forum will be tonight, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. in 304 Johnston Student Center. Commission members and constituents are encouraged to attend.

VI. New Business

a. New/ Listed Agenda Items for Next Meeting - Commission Members

- VT Beyond Coal – Following discussion, Tyler Campbell moved that the Commission refer the VT Beyond Coal organization to SGA and RHF. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Atkins will contact the appropriate individuals on the action they should take.

VII. Announcements

- An e-mail will be sent soon announcing the spring planning retreat for members of CSA.
- SGA has reserved the Squires Commonwealth Ballroom on the day before, the day of, and the day after reading day for students to study, utilize laptops, and enjoy refreshments. An announcement will come out next week.
- Dustin Dorph announced that SGA plans to have the Extreme Makeover survey results available in the spring semester.
- Jessica Estariz announced that on Friday, November 30, AASU will sponsor a Comedy Central Comedian in the GLC Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 1, they will sponsor a Fall Cultural Show, also at 7:00 p.m., in the GLC Auditorium.

- Nick Onopa announced that he will send a letter to the student organizations that have offices in Squires inviting them to meet about the new student center before the end of the semester. If you receive that letter, please share it with the members of your organization who might like to participate.
- Claire Childress announced that the Division of Student Affairs has Aspire! Awards that honor students for their contributions and accomplishments related to the division's five Aspirations for Student Learning. The awards will be given three more times during the spring semester, so she encouraged those in attendance to nominate their peers who are especially deserving of recognition.

VIII. Adjournment – Nick Onopa moved to adjourn the meeting and Michael Goodwin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Agenda Items to Discuss in the Future

- **Planning committee updates**
- **Recreational Sports Committee**
- **Hokie Day** – Trip to the General Assembly with SGA
- **Non-traditional students (graduate and undergraduate)** – issues and concerns that they have

Agenda Items Discussed This Year

- Robert's Rules of Order
- Academic Integrity Statement
- New Student Center
- On-campus residents concerned with the **dwindling of residential parking** because of building construction and parking for graduate students
- **Traffic Safety** – specifically with bikes and people not paying attention when crossing the roads.
- **Recycling** – some buildings don't have recycle bins – how does this fit with VTs sustainability efforts?