

Commission on Student Affairs

Thursday, December 4, 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, Claire Childress, Alicia Cohen, Rudney Danquah, Joseph Edens, Jean-Luc Ford, Ashley Francis, Lauren Surface-designee for Monika Gibson, Elizabeth Lazor, Mary Ann Lewis, Patty Perillo, Ethan Poole, Greg Purdy, Robert Sebek

Absent:

Matthew Chan, Noha Elsherbiny, Andrew George, Austin Larrowe, Jamaica Sykes, Ricardo Zalles Reyes, Sapna Singh-designee for Brian Tran, Eric Wetzel

Guests:

Tricia Smith, Mark Smiley, Angela Simmons, Tuna Shankar, James Orr, Jaime Williams

I. Call to Order

Mr. Joe Edens, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. welcoming the group to today's meeting and reviewing the agenda items for discussion.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and passed to approve the agenda.

III. Show & Tell

a. Andrew George

Mr. Andrew George was unable to attend today and will present at a future meeting.

b. Mary Ann Lewis

Dr. Mary Ann Lewis represents the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Dr. Rachel Holloway. The Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs oversees academic advising, including university studies, first year experiences, general education, student success initiatives, undergraduate/university honors, and undergraduate research.

Dr. Lewis introduced Dr. James Orr, director of the Undergraduate Honor System. He began serving in this role on June 1 and is responsible for education and outreach efforts and the daily operations of the Undergraduate Honor System. Dr. Orr's focus is on cultivating a culture of academic integrity and honesty, support of senior level administration, and significant interaction among students and faculty.

IV. New Business

a. Vice Chair Nominations

Mr. Edens advised the group of the vacancy of the vice chair position and opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Greg Purdy nominated Ms. Jackie Fisher; Ms. Fisher accepted.

A motion was made and passed to close vice chair nominations and move into vice chair elections.

b. Vice Chair Elections

A motion was made and passed to forgo ballot voting for voice voting. A vote was taken, and with a majority vote, Ms. Jackie Fisher was elected as the new vice chair for CSA for the remainder of the 2014-15 academic year.

c. Secretary Nominations

Mr. Edens advised the group of the vacancy of the secretary position and opened the floor for nominations.

Ms. Elizabeth Lazor nominated Mr. Jean-Luc Ford; Mr. Ford accepted.

A motion was made and passed to close secretary nominations and move into secretary elections.

d. Secretary Elections

A vote was taken, and with a majority vote, Mr. Jean-Luc Ford was elected as the new secretary for CSA for the remainder of the 2014-15 academic year.

Mr. Edens informed the group that nominations will be opened for CSA parliamentarian at the January 29, 2015 meeting; Mr. Luke Carroll will not be returning for the spring semester.

V. Commissions/Committees Updates

a. Childcare Committee: Greg Purdy, Chair

Mr. Greg Purdy advised the committee has not met since the last CSA meeting, thus no update.

b. Bias Response Committee: Ricardo Zalles Reyes, Chair

Mr. Ricardo Zalles Reyes was unable to attend today.

c. Task Force for a Healthier Virginia Tech

Ms. Ashley Francis provided a brief update regarding recent task force meetings. Discussions include what it would look like to make Virginia Tech a tobacco-free campus, as well as a safer campus for bicyclists. The health and wellness fair occurs in January and will focus on each dimension of health and wellness.

d. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

A CEOD report will be emailed to the commission with the next agenda.

VI. Announcements

Ms. Claire Childress announced Career Services will be opening interview rooms for a quiet place to study.

Ms. Rodney Danquah stated next Tuesday, BOC is hosting the Donning of the Kente Ceremony at 4:00pm and Kwanzaa Celebration at 7:00pm.

Ms. Susan Anderson announced the Holiday Lights Festival is Friday at 7:00pm in downtown Blacksburg.

Ms. Elizabeth Lazor advised Reading Day with SGA is next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Breakfast is available daily in Commonwealth Ballroom.

Mr. Ethen Poole stated HokiePride Pie Night is next Thursday. And, tonight at 8:00pm in Brush Mountain is a talk about safe sex.

Dr. Patty Perillo acknowledged some of the challenges of late as a campus community related to the safety of our students (and student organizations) regarding events and the need for insurance. She wanted to share that the senior administration of the university is concerned with all of the issues and that they can often be more complex than media explains or one person's voice can highlight/offer.

Dr. Perillo also discussed the work of the InclusiveVT initiative. Ms. Tricia Smith highlighted DSA's 3 initiatives, which include:

- 1) commitment to our hiring practices in regards to diversity and inclusion and ensuring candidate liaisons in search processes,
- 2) implementation of intergroup dialogue (IGD), and
- 3) multicultural competence committee's work specific to divisional faculty/staff capacity building (year 1-cohort based; year 2-Ut Prosim context; year 3-mentorship to year 1 cohort).

Lastly, Dr. Perillo acknowledged recent comments posted on Yik Yak (a college student focused app allowing anonymity of commentary). The comments do not fit with our Principles of Community, DSA's Aspirations for Student Learning, or the overarching intent of a university's mission to own and speak one's truth as a means of open forum, public discourse, and constructive dialogue.

Dr. Angela Simmons stated work is being done on how can we change the language in our policies for spontaneous demonstrations, protests, rallies, etc. As well, she encouraged student leaders to step up – now is the time. Support your peers and know that we/DSA are here to support you.

Ms. Tricia Smith mentioned Hokies United, a concerned group of students that want to heal together.

VII. Adjournment

With no further announcements or business, Mr. Joe Edens, chair, entertained a motion to adjourn; Ms. Susan Anderson motioned and Mr. Ethan Poole seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.