

MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
316 Squires Student Center
September 24, 1987
4:00 pm

PRESENT: Dr. Sandra M. Sullivan, Dr. Landrum L. Cross, Dr. Rosemary Goss, Mr. Rex Donnelly, Mr. Walter Lundy, Ms. Maggie Stemann, Dr. Robert Morrill, General Howard Lane, Mr. Ralph Kopera, Mr. David Baker, Mr. Alan Baird, Mr. Greg Battaglia, Dr. Michael Ogliaruso, Ms. Meg Tomlinson (interrupted attendance), Mr. Kimble Reynolds, Ms. Denise Shuster, Mr. Gerald Hampton

ABSENT: Dr. John Hillison, Mr. Robert Branch

Dr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Sullivan stated that under New Business, item #1, the following information should be added to that which appears on page 3 of the attachment but was omitted in the typing of the agenda:

Approval of Recognition - Public Relations Society of
America at Virginia Tech
Return to Active Status - Students for Jesus Christ

A motion was introduced and approved to adopt the agenda with the additions.

2. Approval of the Commission Minutes of May 14, 1987

Ms. Stemann stated that the reference to the University Council Constitution on page 8 is improperly numbered and should read:

Article XI, Section 1, Subsection b and Section 2, Subsection b

The Commission minutes of May 14, 1987 were approved as corrected.

3. Introduction of Commission Members

Dr. Sullivan welcomed both new and returning Commission members and asked that members individually state their names and affiliations as a means of introduction.

Copies of the Commission Membership List and the Meeting and Agenda Deadline List were distributed to all present for the benefit of those who missed the spring mailing or had misplaced their copies.

4. CSA Operating Procedures

Dr. Sullivan introduced Dr. Charlotte Davis who serves as the Commission Parliamentarian.

Dr. Davis distributed an informational summary on parliamentary procedures and briefly reviewed the document. Dr. Davis stated that parliamentary procedure allows for debate, protects the interests of both the majority and minority points of view, and protects the interests of represented constituencies. Dr. Davis offered to counsel with CSA members individually if they had any questions concerning the document or parliamentary procedures in general.

5. Reports of Subcommittees

In successive motions, the Commission filed the minutes of the following Student Media Board meetings:

May 6, 1987
May 13, 1987
May 18, 1987
May 27, 1987

It was called to the Commission's attention that Student Media Board budget, as referenced in the board's May 27, 1987 minutes, will be brought before the Commission for review at the Commission meeting on October 8, 1987.

A motion was introduced and passed to file the minutes of the Student Budget Board meeting of May 6, 1987.

6. Unfinished Business

Mr. Donnelly introduced a substitution to the amendment to Resolution 8 CSA 5/7/87: Resolution Concerning the Commission Review of Changes in Student-Related Non-Academic Policy.

RESOLVED, that in keeping with a spirit of shared and cooperative governance, whenever there are changes to or new policies and procedures in the general area of student affairs, (and) specifically those contained in the University Policies for Student Life, Squires policies, housing policies, and policies relating to other units within the Division of Student Affairs, the Commission on Student Affairs be informed by a monthly listing of these changes in an attachment to the CSA agenda/minutes packet.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that when time permits, forthcoming new or changed Student Life policies be first reviewed at CSA in order to incorporate as many students, faculty, and administrative concerns as possible before their introduction as established policy.

Mr. Donnelly said that the wording of the original amendment was vague and the addition of the monthly listing provided a method for informing the Commission of policy changes. He also stated that the addition of the "Let It Be Resolved " paragraph provided the opportunity for input into policy making before policies are determined and enacted.

Dr. Sullivan reviewed the history of Resolution 8 CSA 5/7/87 for the benefit of those who are new to the Commission. The original resolution was introduced at the May 7, 1987 meeting of the Commission and was ruled out of order by the Chair as it was viewed as not in the role of the Commission to legislate administrative policy. The Commission overruled the Chair's decision and moved consideration of the resolution under New Business. The resolution came up for discussion at the May 14, 1987 Commission meeting under Unfinished Business. At that time an amendment to the original resolution was introduced. The Commission voted to table consideration of the amendment and Resolution 8 CSA 5/7/87 to the first Commission meeting of the 1987 fall quarter.

Dr. Sullivan restated her objection to the interpretation of the Commission's role as the right to review all policies under consideration by professional staff prior to enactment by the University's administration.

Mr. Baker stated that he interpreted the intent of the resolution as a request for information rather than a request to review administrative policy. He said that he viewed the resolution as providing an opportunity for Commission members to voice concerns about policy before it is finally determined.

Dr. Sullivan stated a further objection to the sentence of the amendment calling for monthly reports on all policy changes. Legally, students must be informed of policies to which they are accountable and it would be burdensome to create another requirement for compiling and distributing a listing of all policy changes.

Dr. Ogliaruso suggested that the phrase "by a monthly listing" be changed to "in a timely manner".

Dr. Cross objected to the requirement of a summary listing because it would merely reflect what is, in fact, already happening. He stated that, when time and opportunity permit, administrators already notify those who would be affected by the policy change. He said it is not clear to him what the resolution is attempting to fix.

It was suggested that the original presenter comment on the resolution since most of the Commission members are new and unfamiliar with the resolution.

Mr. Greg Greer, 1986-87 Vice Chair of the Student Media Board, was introduced by the Chair as the original presenter of Resolution 8 CSA 5/7/87.

Mr. Greer stated that he interprets the role of the Commission to be that of policy making. He said that although he does not believe there is a major problem, he does believe that, in the spirit of shared governance, the Commission should have the opportunity to voice concerns about all policy decisions affecting student life.

Mr. Wormley raised the question as to whether the passage of the resolution would, in fact, hamper administrative functioning.

Dr. Sullivan responded that it is not always possible because of time constraints or appropriate because of the decision-making process, to review every policy decision prior to a decision being made.

Mr. Baker requested that there be a division of the question on the motion to adopt the amendment. There was no objection to this request.

The Chair stated that the "Let It Be Resolved" paragraph of the substitute amendment would be considered first.

Mr. Baker stated that he supported the "Let It Be Resolved" paragraph because he believes there have been several policy decisions and reports of which he was not informed and to which he did not have access.

Mr. Baker moved to close debate on the "Let It Be Further Resolved" portion of the substitute amendment. There was no objection to this motion.

The Commission defeated the motion to adopt the "Let It Be Further Resolved" paragraph of the substitute amendment. (in favor - 6; opposed - 11)

The Chair stated that discussion on the "Resolved" paragraph of the substitute amendment was now on the table.

Mr. Donnelly restated the intent of this portion of the substitute amendment was to provide a means by which the Commission could be ===== informed of policy changes affecting student life.

Dr. Sullivan stated that the Division of Student Affairs already informs those who are to be affected by policy changes. The Commission as a whole is informed when the Commission is affected or involved in the change.

Mr. Baker introduced a motion to extend the floor to the original presenter of the resolution for further comment.

The motion was seconded and passed. (for - 11; opposed - 4; abstentions - 2).

Mr. Greer took the floor and stated that the intent of the resolution was to provide for better policy by providing for a public forum on issues. Mr. Greer said that the concern is not so much for creating new policies, but for reviewing proposed changes to existing policies.

Dr. Cross raised the question as to who has the responsibility for informing the Commission. He stated that the wording of the "Resolved" portion of the substitute amendment does not make it clear who is to prepare the monthly reports. He further stated, that in the true spirit of shared governance, all Commission members would be responsible for

informing the Commission of policy formation and changes of which they have knowledge.

A motion was introduced to close debate on the "Resolved" portion of the substitute amendment. The motion was seconded.

The Commission defeated the motion to adopt the "Resolved" portion of the substitute amendment. (for - 6; opposed - 7; abstentions - 3)

Mr. Donnelly called for the question on Resolution 8 CSA 5/7/87. The motion was seconded.

The Commission voted against Resolution 8 CSA 5/7/87. (for - 3; opposed - 9; abstentions - 4)

7. New Business

The Chair asked for any objections to considering, as a whole, the recognition of the eight listed student organizations and the one student organization seeking a return to active status. There were no objections raised.

Mr. Kopera introduced a motion to approve the recognition of the eight student organizations and to approve the return to active status of the one student organization as listed below:

- African Student Association
- Campus Hokie Club
- Korean Culture Society
- Kuumba
- Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Association at Virginia Tech
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Virginia Tech
- Young Americans for Freedom
- Public Relations Student Society

And to return to active status:
Students for Jesus Christ

The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the recognition and return to active status the student organizations listed above.

8. Announcements

Mr. Kopera announced that the Virginia Tech Union recently selected him as their candidate for the campus "Ugly Man" contest. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote for him.

In response to an inquiry regarding the status of the lights for the south recreational field, Dr. Sullivan agreed to ask for a status report and to share it with the Commission.

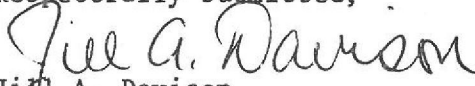
Mr. Battaglia announced that the Class of 1989 Ring Premiere would be held on Tuesday, October 20, 1987 at 8:00 pm in Burruss Hall Auditorium. He also announced that rings being sold in the Tech Bookstore on Main Street were not the official student-designed Virginia Tech class rings.

Mr. Reynolds announced that in celebration of "Senior Week", the Class of 1988 would hold a tailgate party on Saturday, September 26 before the Tech vs. Syracuse game in the Animal Sciences parking lot beginning at 11:00 a.m. Free balloons and fried chicken will be given away.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill A. Davison
Secretary

ATTACHMENT
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