

MINUTES

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

October 26, 2000

Room 219

Squires Student Center

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. Sarah Airey, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Kim Beisecker, Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Ms. Tina Ensor for Ms. Christina Coukos, Ms. Sue Ellen Crocker, Dr. Landrum Cross, Dr. JoAnn Emmel, Ms. Kylie Felps, Mr. David Fowler, Ms. Cherese Winstead for Ms. Alexandria Graves, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Ms. Errin Jeffes, Mr. Stephen Kantz, Ms. Nique Lannon, Ms. Ashley Marshall, Ms. Jenny Dang for Mr. Rudy Picardo, Mr. Sebastian Rosado, Dr. Kerry Redican, Ms. Vashonta Roach, Ms. Stephanie Scheer, Dr. Edward Spencer, Mr. Patrick Wachendorf, Ms. Emmeline Weber

Absent: Ms. Amy Elliott, Dr. Janet Johnson, Ms. Marquee King, Dr. Martha Reifsnider, Dr. Jennie Reilly, Ms. Heidi Ryan, Ms. Alyssa Williams

Visitors: Mr. Jeff Cullen

I. Call to Order

A. Comments from the Chair

Ms. Emmeline Weber, vice chair, acted as chair for the meeting. Ms. Weber announced that the November 9 meeting will be held in the Executive Conference of Donaldson Brown at 3:30 p.m. She reminded the commission members that when they send a substitute to the meeting, it must be someone who is not a sitting member of the commission in order to have a vote. She also reminded the commission that all meetings are scheduled from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and asked that members adjust their schedules accordingly.

II. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Weber called for approval of the agenda. Dr. Edward Spencer asked to add a discussion of distribution of student football tickets. Ms. Nique Lannon asked to add a discussion of student leader academic enrichment and student organizational advising. A motion was made to approve the amended agenda and passed unanimously.

III. New Business

A. Distribution of Student Football Tickets

Dr. Edward Spencer discussed some recent problems with distribution of student football tickets. He suggested that the commission form a subcommittee to study how our peer institutions distribute their student tickets, then make suggestions for Virginia Tech's distribution process. Dr. Cross urged the subcommittee to look at the dynamics behind the students camping out for tickets and to develop

a strategy that will remove that dynamic. Dr. Cross suggested a random distribution process as an alternative, perhaps using a web-based signup procedure. The following commission members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Ms. Kylie Felps, Mr. David Fowler, Ms. Errin Jeffes, Mr. Steve Kantz, Ms. Nique Lannon, and Dr. Edward Spencer. They will also invite a member of the Athletic Department to serve as an ad hoc member of the subcommittee.

B. Disciplinary Actions and How Cases are Handled by Judicial Affairs

Mr. Jeff Cullen, Director of Judicial Affairs, discussed the university's judicial system. The judicial system applies to all Virginia Tech students at all our campuses, including the center in Switzerland, and students are expected to abide by the code of student conduct at all campus locations.

For academic year 1999-2000 the judicial system had 986 cases, with the majority of violations occurring in residence halls, athletic facilities, and in the town of Blacksburg. Mr. Cullen discussed possible actions that can be taken in a judicial case: not in violation of university policy, violation with no sanction applied, formal warning, probation, denial of housing contract, revocation of computer network access, denial of athletic privilege, deferred suspension, blocked enrollment, suspension, and dismissal. Mr. Cullen discussed the interface between the judicial system and the other forums of adjudication on campus. The Honor System, Corps of Cadets, Athletic Department, and Greeks all have their own systems, and findings or decisions in one forum do not affect decisions in the other forums. Coordination between forums is done on a case-by-case basis. One incident could result in several hearings before the various forums.

The judicial record is part of the education record and, therefore, protected under federal privacy laws. Only the student and judicial affairs have access unless the student is suspended, in which case the necessary university officials (director of Financial Aid, manager of Student Accounts, academic dean, and Registrars office) would be notified. A parental notification policy is in effect for alcohol or drug violations for students under 21. If the sanction is deferred suspension or higher, they send a letter to parents 10 days after the case is closed. When other universities ask for information on students, the students have the option of signing a consent form giving permission to release the information. Judicial records are purged a year after graduation.

Judicial Affairs is beginning the process of soliciting new members for the student judicial committees. Applications will be available on their website at www.judicial.vt.edu. The annual review of the University Policies and Student Life is underway. The review committee will be sending the proposed changes through the university's governance system (including CSA) in time for approval at the March Board of Visitors meeting. Questions about his presentation may be directed to Mr. Cullen at jcullen@vt.edu.

C. Student Leader Academic Enrichment and Student Organizational Advising Structure

Ms. Nique Lannon distributed a handout on and discussed the need for student leader academic enrichment and a student organizational advising structure.

She would like the commission to address these two issues by establishing a subcommittee to study them. The commission discussed the student leaders' need for additional academic support and guidance as they fulfill their roles as leaders. Student leaders are concerned that existing academic support groups on campus do not meet their particular needs. Ms. Lannon and the commission also discussed the need for student organizations to have advisors who would help them develop leadership skills, address academic issues, address diversity issues, serve as a resource to other parts of the university, serve as a policy interpreter, and help motivate and encourage the students. Ms. Nicki Cantrell suggested that the Student Activities Office be consulted about these matters because that is their area of responsibility for the university. Dr. Spencer made a motion that Mr. Steve Schneiter and Ms. Kathleen Copple (Student Activities Office) review the document for their recommendation and reaction before the commission proceeds on the matter. Ms. Kim Beisecker amended the motion to include a presentation by Mr. Schneiter and Ms. Copple before the end of the semester. The motion and amendment were voted on and approved unanimously.

Dr. Cross made an announcement related to the academic advising topic. The university is debating whether to have a university-wide attendance policy in regard to class participation if a student athlete or leader is away representing the university. Contact Dr. Dave Ford at fordd@vt.edu with your comments in regard to the attendance issue.

IV. Announcements

Mr. Sebastian Rosado announced the Dance of Nations on October 28, 8:00 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

Ms. Sarah Airey announced that the Board of Visitors will meet on November 5 and 6. Anyone having items to be discussed should contact her.

Dr. Cross reminded the commission of the breakfast with the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors on November 6 and discussed the format. Those attending the breakfast should plan to discuss what it's like to be a student at Virginia Tech.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary