

**Commission on Student Affairs  
Minutes  
March 17, 1994  
219 Squires Student Center**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Tom Goodale, Mr. Ronnie Stephenson, Mr. Keith Coutray, Ms. Amy Coates, Mr. Vaughn Shannon, Ms. Lisa Auleta, Ms. Dimples Irby, Mr. Fred Homan (for Ms. Rachel Rowley), Col. Milton Bartley, Mr. Chris Parker, Ms. Shannon Milliken, Mr. Henry Hsu, Mr. Carl Mitchell, Mr. Tim Schell, Ms. Jennifer Tank, Dr. Cornel Morton, Dr. Edward Spencer, Dr. Richard Sorensen, and Ms. Judy Davis.

**ABSENT:** Dr. Jim McKenna, Dr. John Eaton, Ms. Adla Tamimi, Ms. Jenn Sulin, Mr. Robert Graham, and Dr. Jeanne Howard.

**GUESTS:** Mr. Bill Champion, Ms. Heather Brown, Mr. Jon Griese, Mr. Kevin LeClaire, and Ms. Alicia Cohen, Dr. Barbara Pendergrass, and Mr. John Aughenbaugh.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Tom Goodale, acting chairperson of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Goodale began the meeting by having all guests and new members of the Commission introduce themselves.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Dr. Goodale said that he would be chairing the meeting due to Dr. McKenna having eye surgery.

2. Dr. Goodale disseminated a memo that listed ten (10) administrative and student life issues (see attached). Though Dr. Goodale reviewed all items within the memo, discussion focused on item #1, "Salary and Tuition Policy information ... passed by the 1994 Virginia General Assembly." Dr. Goodale informed the Commission that the University is concerned about the rising costs of out-of-state tuition. As out-of-state tuition has dramatically increased the last few years (out-of-state students are currently paying 119% of their tuition costs), the number of out-of-students applying to Virginia Tech has also declined. Dr. Goodale also stated, when queried, that compared to its peer institutions, Tech's out-of-state tuition is high.

Dr. Goodale also noted that the application pool, both graduate and undergraduate, for the 1994-95 academic year is down compared to past years and that Tech would likely raise in-state student tuition by 3%, pending Governor Allen's approval of the state budget and action by the Board of Visitors.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Lisa Auleta asked that a Student Budget Board resolution on the Location of Registered Student Organization accounts be added to the agenda as item #6 under New Business. The agenda was approved as modified.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The approval of the February 17, 1994 minutes was deferred until the next Commission meeting.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Student Budget Board** Ms. Lisa Auleta, vice-chairperson of the Board, asked that Student Budget Board minutes of February 14 and March 14, 1994 be filed, with Ms. Auleta noting the Registered Student Organization Account Resolution at the end of the March 14th minutes. The minutes were filed as modified.

**Facilities** Mr. Vaughn Shannon, facilities chairperson, reported that the subcommittee was going to explore establishing separate meeting rooms in the library for studying and group project purposes. Dr. Goodale suggested the subcommittee examine the issue of replacing the countless trees destroyed by the recent ice storms. Dr. Goodale said the subcommittee should contact Spencer Hall, Assistant Vice-President for Facilities, if it decides to pursue this project.

**Governance** No report. Dr. Goodale said a chairperson for the governance subcommittee would be appointed at the next Commission meeting.

**Student Life** No report, with Mr. Mitchell stating, once again, that the subcommittee had not met in some time. Dr. Goodale stated that action on appointing a chairperson for this subcommittee would occur at the next Commission meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Ms. Auleta submitted a second report from the Student Budget Board Task Force on the issue of student organizations being able to get reimbursed for food expenditures while attending conferences as do faculty and staff. Ms. Auleta stated that the Task Force reviewed the issue again, per the request of the Commission, with Mr. Carl Mitchell, Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) Vice-President, present to explain the nature of the requested change to Student Budget Board guidelines. Due to only seven Task Force members being present, however, Mr. Mitchell did not want to address the matter without a quorum being present.

Ms. Auleta reported that the Task Force believes its original recommendation that the policy on food reimbursement for travel

not change still stands, as the matter was discussed in great detail during the Task Force's review of the Board's funding guidelines. Yet, the Task Force believes the GSA will want to have the matter addressed through some other means, since the Task Force was unable to provide the GSA with the second hearing it requested.

Mr. Tim Schell asked Dr. Goodale, who agreed, that the Task Force's recommendations (enclosed in its final report) on this matter be sent to the governance subcommittee for review purposes.

2. Reverend Al Payne spoke to the Commission on the need of having memories of the late Dr. McComas preserved, while those memories were still fresh in the minds of students. Reverend Payne suggested a booklet, which would contain expressions of individual students commenting on how Dr. McComas placed a priority on student life here at Virginia Tech. Commission members also submitted ideas on how to preserve memories of Dr. McComas, which included the following:

- Plaques around trees planted on campus.
- Oral histories of student memories.
- A commemoration in Squires Student Center.
- Use of student media to solicit student memories.
- Oral histories transcribed in a booklet, with booklet being available on demand in Squires.
- Written submissions from student organizations for booklet.

Reverend Payne stressed capturing the memories before students graduate in May. He also felt that purpose and use of booklet (or any other medium) be determined by those who create it.

Dr. Goodale suggested that a proposal for funding of the project be submitted to the Tech Foundation. Dr. Goodale also asked Ms. Alicia Cohen, Coordinator of Leadership Development, to collect submissions from student organizations, if the project heads in that direction.

The Commission unanimously approved a motion that recommends the University record and preserve the memories of Dr. McComas.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Dr. Goodale, in accordance with Virginia statute, called for the Commission to move into executive session, so as to review candidates for student member of the Board of Visitors (BOV) and procedural issues. Ms. Heather Brown distributed a list of the six (6) finalists for the student member position of the BOV. The finalists are Maureen Bezold, Gary Coleman, Desta Daggett, Kathryn Dove, Kevin LeClaire, and Ronald Stephenson. Ms. Brown indicated that there were 20 total candidates, with 15 Commission members voting.

Dr. Goodale then provided history of the student member position, the process used to select the student member, and the activities and influence the member possesses while on the BOV. Dr. Goodale opened the floor to discussion of procedural issues

at this time.

Mr. Schell felt that it was unfair to some applicants that others provided more support materials than what was requested. Dr. Pendergrass responded that the application packet provided only minimum standards that applicants had to achieve. Mr. Fred Homan further replied that the packet then should state that the application materials requested were only a minimum standard.

Colonel Milton Bartley said that a leadership resume from the applicants would be helpful when judging the applications.

Dr. Ed Spencer suggested that a cap be set on the number of recommendation letters submitted by applicants, as an unwieldy number of reference letters could become the norm. Mr. Mitchell also suggested that reference letter be addressed and sent to only the Commission, as he had heard of applicants sending reference letters to BOV members; this could cause an unfair advantage for these applicants.

Dr. Goodale said that he would report these procedural recommendations to the BOV, as the BOV establishes the procedures for selection of the student member.

Dr. Pendergrass reminded the Commission that interviews with the 6 finalists needed to be completed by April 14. A motion was made and approved that the Commission have a special call meeting on Thursday, March 31, at 4:00-6:00 p.m. to conduct interviews with the 6 student member finalists.

2. Ms. Alicia Cohen distributed to the Commission for recording and discussion purposes the application process for the student leader summer stipend program to be administered by the Office of Leadership and Student Organization Programs (LSOP) (see attached). Mr. Homan asked if student leaders requesting stipends (and who received summer stipends previously) would be allowed to sit on the review committee, and Ms. Cohen replied in the negative. Ms. Auleta asked if the application process would occur earlier in the spring semester of the 1994-95 academic year, and Ms. Cohen said that probably not. LSOP wanted organizations to have the opportunity to elect new officers, who would then decide to apply or not. Mr. Bill Campion, chairperson of the Student Budget Board, also mentioned that organizations who may want to request a summer stipend for their incoming officers would be instructed to include such a request in their annual funding budgets.

3. Since no representative of the Black Student Alliance was in attendance, Dr. Goodale deferred first reading of changes to the organization's constitution until the April 7 Commission meeting.

4. Ms. Amy Coates presented, for first reading, changes to the Virginia Tech Union's constitution, with the changes highlighted in bold print (see attached).

5. Mr. Bill Campion distributed a memo and accompanying applications for one undergraduate and one graduate student position on the Board for the 1994-95 academic year. Student

organizations on the Commission may nominate candidates for either position. The undergraduate vacancy is a two-year spot, while the graduate position is a one-year term. Further information is available and requested within the memo and the application forms. Applications are due on Friday, April 8 by 5:00 p.m. in 225 Squires Student Center.

6. Ms. Auleta presented for approval a resolution sponsored by the Student Budget Board entitled, "Location of Registered Student Organization Accounts." The resolution calls for Registered Student Organizations to maintain all Student Center fee monies it receives at University Unions and Student Activities (UUSA) Central Accounting. After providing the Commission time to read the motion, Ms. Auleta made a motion, which was seconded, to waive first reading of the resolution. Ms. Auleta justified the motion by saying that action on this matter, which likely would have to be approved by University Council, needed immediate action by the Commission if it were to change University policy by the end of this semester. After a few Commission members expressed reservations about passing a resolution without time for debate and reflection, the motion to waive first reading was approved.

A motion was then made and passed to approve the resolution as submitted (see attached).

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

John M. Aughenbaugh  
Student Affairs Coordinator for Graduate Student Life