

MINUTES  
Commission on Student Affairs  
316 Squires Student Center  
December 10, 1987  
4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Sandra Sullivan, Mr. Alan Baird, Mr. Dave Baker, Mr. Greg Battaglia, Dr. Landrum Cross, Mr. Rex Donnelly, Dr. Rosemary Goss, Mr. Gerald Hampton, Dr. John Hillison, Mr. Ralph Kopera, Gen. Howard Lane, Mr. Walter Lundy, Dr. Robert Morrill, Ms. Maggie Stemann, Ms. Gretchen Kihm (for Ms. Meg Tomlinson), Mr. Andre Wormley

ABSENT: Dr. Michael Ogliaruso, Mr. Kimble Reynolds, Mr. David Lush

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was introduced and approved to adopt the agenda.

2. Approval of the Commission Minutes of November 12, 1987

The minutes of November 12, 1987 were approved with the addition of a Collegiate Times November 13, 1987 article titled "Commission discusses report on group registration process". The article will be attached to the minutes.

3. Reports of Subcommittees

A motion was introduced and passed to file the Student Media Board minutes of October 21, 1987.

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

November 10, 1987

November 11, 1987

Mr. Wormley called to the Commission's attention item #4 under Old Business of the November 11, 1987 minutes regarding the Student Budget Board constitution. He announced that the constitution will be sent with the next Commission agenda for approval at the January 14, 1988 meeting.

4. Announcements

Mr. Baird requested that the minutes reflect the Commission's heartiest congratulations to the men's basketball team for their stunning victory over fourteenth ranked Georgetown on Wednesday, December 9, 1987.

Mr. Baird also announced that RHF funding for the 1988-89 fiscal year will come from the Office of Housing and Residence Life budget instead

of Student Budget Board. The RHF office has recently relocated to 301 Squires and Commission members were invited to stop by .

Dr. Cross announced that Health Services has received approval from the University Traffic Committee to redesignate the parking lot directly behind Henderson Hall from Faculty and Staff to Patient and On-duty Health Services personnel only. He explained that this would be a 24-hour, towing enforced designation which should provide patient parking in the evenings and on weekends.

Mr. Donnelly announced that a public hearing regarding Cowgill Hall health concerns has been scheduled and encouraged student leaders to attend. He also expressed his appreciation to Dean Steger of the College of Architecture for approaching the situation in a very open and cooperative manner.

#### 5. Adjournment

A motion was introduced and passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill A. Davison  
Secretary

ATTACHMENT

JAD/awe

cc: Dr. William E. Lavery  
Dr. Paul E. Torgersen  
Dr. Robert E. Heterick  
Mr. Charles M. Forbes  
Mr. Minnis E. Ridenour  
Dr. John M. Perry  
Dr. William R. Van Dresser

Mr. William W. Campion  
Dr. Charlotte Davis  
Ms. Beverly Sgro  
News Director, WUVT  
Editor, Collegiate Times  
Ms. Susan Trulove

# Commission discusses report on group registration process

## Members concerned about administrators' intentions for future implementations of aspects in report

Collegiate Times

November 13, 1987

pages A1, A9

By SCOT HOFFMAN  
News editor

In a two-hour meeting Thursday, members of Virginia Tech's Commission on Student Affairs discussed at length a report detailing the relationship of the university with its officially registered groups.

During discussion, Student Government Association President Dave Baker expressed concern that recommendations made in the report, completed over a year ago at the request of the Student Affairs Office, would be carried over into actual policy without the consent of the commission. SGA Vice President Rex Donnelly cited the implementation of the new X-rated film

policy over the summer by Vice President for Student Affairs and commission chair Sandra Sullivan as evidence that such an action could occur.

"It's just a report," Sullivan said. "You should not make more of a report than it is."

Baker said, "OK, I realize that, but I also know that this document was created for a reason and it's to be a recommendation from the student affairs division to the university as to how they will define their relationship . . . between the student organizations and the university."

The report, prompted by incidents at other

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## Commission

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universities where schools were being sued for actions taken by its groups, probes the registration process by which groups become officially recognized and also addresses the issue of a university's liability for registered groups.

The report recommends that Tech distance itself from a majority of its groups and reduce requirements of those groups to minimize liability and put less constraints on smaller, more transitory groups. It suggests a policy to establish officially the option of being officially registered or simply recognized by Tech.

In being recognized, groups would be expected to have a constitution and a faculty advisor and meet several academic, financial and legal requirements.

Registered groups would not be officially associated with Tech, but would be allowed to operate within the university. Expectations of these groups would vary slightly and they would be allowed to form and dissolve with little responsibility.

Sullivan said the intent of the report was to make suggestions on how to reduce the "red tape" involved in the registration of small groups.

There would be nearly 300 of these groups, all of which would be estranged enough from the university to reduce or remove the school's liability.

In the report, it is mentioned that the constitutions of certain recognized groups, within a stricter program called the University Student Life Program, should be subject to review by Tech. There are a recommended 12 groups to be labeled as USLP groups.

Baker found most of his criticisms with this part of the document.

"I'm kind of wondering exactly what does this mean?" he said. "What kind of changes are going to occur in the SGA constitution? Why should the university have any kind of say in that matter at all?"

D. David Ostroth, student activities director in Squires Student Center, who also chaired the committee that wrote the report, said, "What was meant (in the report) was not that there would ever be any changes in constitutions imposed.

"It's not going to be summarily imposed on you," he said. "If it was going to happen at all it would have to be voted on (in CSA)."

Baker also said Tech administrators, and specifically Sullivan and the Office of Student Affairs, have been part of a communication gap between the administration and student leaders.

"There have been times in the past . . . when the administration and the student leaders have not seen eye to eye on issues," he said. "There has been a distrust . . . towards a lot of the administrators.

"Our fear is that we don't want to continue to be token representation on these committees," he said. "Policies just get imposed and sometimes the administration doesn't inform us. We just want to have our input and we want to break down these barriers that are between us . . . because they are real and everyone in this room knows it."

Landrum Cross, Sullivan's assistant in student affairs, also a member of the commission, addressed Baker's concerns by saying, "Frankly, I'm getting tired of the paranoid remarks that assume that we've got some kind of insidious master plan to take over this (group registration) process.

"Where in (the report) does it say the university will now go in and tinker with students' constitutions?" he said. "It doesn't say that. You have to have a biased point of view to make that kind of interpretation."

However, he said, "My saying it doesn't mean anything (because) my opinion has questionable credibility in your mind in the first place."

In other business, the commission unanimously and with little discussion passed two resolutions, one involving student representation on the University Traffic Committee and the other dealing with event approval in on-campus facilities.