

Commission on Student Affairs Minutes

September 10, 2020

3:30 PM

Zoom

Present: Victoria Dashevsky, Adil Sageer, Anisha Hari, April Myers, Ariana Guevara, Awad Abdelhalim, Cam Roberts, Conrad Briles, Danielle Panico, Grant Bommer, Heather Wagoner, Jennifer Pike, Jes Davis, Kase Poling, Lauren Surface, Maruf Hoque, Michelle Kim, Nathaniel Soss, Sabrina Sturgeon, Sammy Bales, Spencer Hamilton, Steve Matuszak, Susanna Rinehart, Tahreem Alam, Tara Frank

Absent: Amanda Coleman, Ariana Labat, Camellia Pastore, Chapman Pendery, Frank Shushok, Jessica Nguyen, Katherine Franz, Kayla Alward, Kimberly Smith, Tim Lin

Guest: Mary Helmick

1. **Adoption of Agenda** - Victoria Dashevsky

Meeting was called to order at 3:33pm. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. **University Council and Commission Updates**

a. University Council - Victoria Dashevsky

PURPOSE: The purpose of the University Council is to assist the President of the University in formulating and implementing university policy in a manner which attempts to ensure that Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University always strives effectively toward its goals, which are:

1. To provide an environment conducive to the pursuit of learning, teaching, scholarship, research, and service.
2. To anticipate and meet the educational needs of society in general and the Commonwealth and nation in particular.

First meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21 @ 3:30pm via Zoom. If you wish to attend a UC meeting, and are not a member, email April Myers abmyers@vt.edu by 12pm the day of the meeting to receive the Zoom access information.

b. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Commissioner

CHARGE: To advise the President’s Inclusion and Diversity Executive Council and to study, formulate, and recommend to University Council policies and procedures as they relate to the university’s responsibilities regarding equal opportunity, affirmative action, accessibility, compliance, diversity, and inclusion. Areas for consideration include recruitment, retention, and advancement of faculty, staff, and students, in a manner consistent with the university’s principles of community and commitment to equal opportunity and access.

They are still seeking (1) Graduate Student and (1) Undergraduate student to join. If interested email Victoria - vicky98@vt.edu.

c. Academic Support Committee – Commissioner

No updates, as they have not met as of yet. Victoria noted this committee only meets on an “as needed” basis.

3. **Old Business**

None

4. **New Business**

a. Mask Presentation - Mary Helmick, Director of University Procurement

Handout can be found here: https://vt.edu/content/dam/vt_edu/covid-19/EHS%20Facemask%20Respirator%20Guide%20061720.pdf and link to list of vendors can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T9PI-fK0dPzkP2bYkoMh0Q6zcrXGIWcY/view?usp=sharing>

- b. CSA minutes and electronic voting - Victoria Dashevsky
Moving forward minutes will be sent out electronically in PDF form to all members. The body of the email will remind all members that the attached minutes are ready for electronic voting and for them to remember that the absence of a response indicates a positive vote. In addition, minutes from our last meeting of April 16, 2020 will be sent out this afternoon after our meeting for your review and vote.
- c. Forthcoming changes to CSA agendas and structure of meetings – Victoria Dashevsky
In an effort to make meetings more streamlined, structured, and efficient we are moving forward with these important changes:
- For those listed on upcoming agendas, we will be reaching out to each of them individually prior to the meeting to request their information/talking points
 1. This information will be added to our PowerPoint and shared throughout the meeting, thus allowing everyone to fully engage and follow along
 - The section entitled “Announcements and Updates” is being removed from future agendas after today, as this section does not need to happen during our meeting
 1. Frank will be given the opportunity to do a standing VP for Student Affairs update at each meeting should he wish to do so.
 2. Otherwise, we reach out to everyone in this section prior to the meeting requesting all of the detailed information, attachments, etc. All of this information will then be compiled into a report, and shared on our Google Drive.
- d. Robert’s Rules Presentation - Victoria Dashevsky
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pDC3ti1Hcz2ORJlxYT4Zm4YbJipGBCMX/view?usp=sharing>
- e. Vice - Chair Elections - Victoria Dashevsky
Ariana Guevara was elected as CSA Vice Chair for 2020/2021.

5. Announcements and Updates

- a. Student Affairs - Dr. Heather Wagoner
No update. Heather opened the floor to answer any questions members may have. No questions were raised.
- b. Student Government Association - Adil Sageer
Applications are currently being accepted for SGA's governance seats. The form is on GobblerConnect, and everyone is encouraged to apply and share it with others: <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/submitter/form/start/439398>
- c. Graduate Student Assembly - Maruf Hoque
GSA will be hosting a virtual graduate school fair on October 7. Everyone who wants to go to grad school should attend.
- d. Board of Visitors Representatives - Camellia Pastore and Sabrina Sturgeon
Sabrina is organizing a graduate student BOV Task Force that includes herself and two other student leaders in the graduate school. She wants to ensure this task force is effective by getting involved with issues impacting graduate students. If you're on a project that lacks graduate student representation or need more voices surrounding graduate student issues, please connect with her so that you can collaborate! I want to get this group involved with meetings, town halls, projects, and anything else you might be working on. Email Sabrina: sdsturgeon@vt.edu.

First board meeting was held 2 to 3 weeks ago and you can find the full recap on Instagram.

- e. Other, etc. – Commissioners
A question was raised of a cadet being discriminated against because he is black and he has died his hair blonde. Tara Frank recommended the Corps member complete the online bias report through the Dean of Students Office and someone will reach out to him to have the conversation about what the next steps need to be. The online form can be

found here: https://dos.vt.edu/express_a_concern.html. DOS office will then figure out what else needs to be done and who it needs to be directed to.

Next CSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24. If you have something you would like on the agenda, please email Victoria vicky98@vt.edu or send her a Slack message no later than Monday, September 21. In addition, if you have any specific people you want Victoria to reach out to, regarding particular presentations, get in contact with Victoria and she will work to make sure she is doing everything possible to fully represent the students.

Victoria has compiled a long list of issues and complaints brought forth at the initial CSA retreat and it is her goal to reach out to all of those larger departments to see if they would be willing to come to a future meeting to speak, or to share something in an email to which she can then relay onto the Commission. Once she has secured something for the 24th Victoria will let everyone know.

6. **Adjournment** - Victoria Dashevsky

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 p.m.