

MINUTES

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

September 28, 2000

Room 234

Squires Student Center

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. Sarah Airey, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Kim Beisecker, Ms. Nicki Cantrell, Ms. Christina Coukos, Ms. Sue Ellen Crocker, Dr. Landrum Cross, Ms. Amy Elliott, Ms. Candace Wiltshire for Ms. Kylie Felps, Mr. David Fowler, Ms. Alexandria Graves, Ms. Errin Jeffes, Dr. Mary Ann Lewis for Dr. Janet Johnson, Mr. Stephen Kantz, Ms. Marquea King, Ms. Ashley Marshall, Mr. Rudy Picardo, Mr. Sebastian Rosado, Dr. Kerry Redican, Ms. Lisa Halleck for Dr. Jennie Reilly, Ms. Vashonta Roach, Ms. Stephanie Scheer, Dr. Edward Spencer, Mr. Patrick Wachendorf, Ms. Emmeline Weber, Ms. Alyssa Williams

Absent: Dr. JoAnn Emmel, Mr. Jonathan Harmer, Ms. Nique Lannon, Dr. Martha Reifsnider, Ms. Heidi Ryan

Visitors: Ms. Jennifer Calhoun, Mr. Mike Connelly, Ms. Debby Freed, Mr. Steve Mouras, Ms. Donnetta Snider, Ms. Jean Wood

I. Call to Order

A. Comments from the Chair

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by the commission and approved as written.

III. Approval of Student Budget Board Minutes

The minutes of the September 7 Student Budget Board meeting were approved as written.

IV. Old Business

A. Update on resolutions to change the University Policies for Student Life

Ms. Jennifer Calhoun gave a brief update on the two CSA resolutions to change the UPSL. The resolutions were passed by the commission on March 23, by University Council on April 17, and by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors on June 5. Ms. Calhoun noted that Judicial Affairs will be reviewing the UPSL again this year, and anyone interested in serving on the review committee should contact their office.

V. New Business

A. Parking and transportation issues on campus

Mr. Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation, distributed and reviewed a handout on transportation and parking at Virginia Tech. He discussed some of the major events affecting parking on campus, the cost of building more parking lots versus a parking garage, and the proposed concepts for future transportation and parking programs. He also reviewed some of the initiatives they are using to help alleviate the traffic and parking problems: maximize existing spaces by reducing the number of violators, promote alternative transportation options and incentives, improve visitor parking, and make the core campus more pedestrian friendly. Mr. Mouras then addressed the commission's questions regarding student parking in various lots on campus after 5:00 p.m., the possibility of Virginia Tech and the Town of Blacksburg sharing a parking garage, the number of bike pathways on campus, and the need for the Office of Transportation to let the student population know when policy changes are taking place.

B. Blacksburg Transit

Mr. Mike Connelly, Transit Manager for the Town of Blacksburg, attended the meeting to discuss the Blacksburg Transit, which is run cooperatively with the town and Virginia Tech. They also have an advisory committee, which includes faculty/staff and students. Mr. Connelly distributed a handout showing service changes that increased their ridership almost 20% in two years. He discussed programs they are currently working on—a ride-share program with on-line matching, park and ride lots in Christiansburg and Blacksburg, and a potential bus route to Roanoke. He addressed the commission's concerns regarding overcrowding on buses, reduced service in the summer, and the lack of para-transit service on Sundays. Mr. Connelly reminded the commission that bus schedules and service announcements are available on their web page at www.btransit.org.

VI. Announcements

Ms. Nicki Cantrell announced that Order of the Gavel would hold their induction ceremony on October 6 at 5:00 p.m., with President Steger speaking.

Dr. Lanny Cross announced that student members of the commission would be invited to a breakfast with the Student Affairs Committee of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors on November 6. His office will be sending invitations in the near future.

Ms. Emmy Weber announced a Hate Crimes Vigil taking place that evening at 7:30 in front of Alumni Hall. The vigil is in honor of the shooting victims at the Backstreet Cafe in Roanoke in September.

Mr. Patrick Wachendorf reminded the commission that October 2-7 was Homecoming Week, and asked everyone to encourage their groups to participate in the various activities to increase school spirit.

Ms. Marquea King announced that the October 12 commission meeting has been cancelled due to the West Virginia football game on campus that evening.

Ms. Vashonta Roach announced the NAACP/BOC march for unity on October 9 and the Diabetes Walk on October 14.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sanzenbach
Recording Secretary