

University of Virginia Student Council
September Student Senate
September 19, 2017

Sarah: Thanks for coming tonight, as many of you know, this is a new institution. Two years ago, Emily Lodge found some limitations in StudCo's abilities, which were designed in the 1980s. She noticed that we had trouble understanding the concerns and initiatives of the student body. She imagined this senate, where CIO leaders could come together to discuss the most salient and pressing matters. This is a chance for you all to vote. We want to give your proposals cultural currency.

Ty: Thanks for coming out, we appreciate it. I am VPO, and that means you get my emails and funding information. Here are some pertinent updates for CIOs. I will be convening an SAF audit committee to review spending since 2007. The goals are to examine how spending falls in line with the BOV guidelines. It will be partially made of relevant administrators with experience, and the other half will be student leaders from around grounds. Applications to sit on the committee will be going out in the coming weeks, or send me an email. We have collected data with Business Services to see the spending habits of CIOs. We will then reclassify groups into the correct groupings, such as club sports and Madison House. In the spring, we will run focus groups to make sure that SAF is supporting groups equally. This includes the CIO census, which gathers information about programming, membership, and resources. We ask that all CIOs finish this by the end of the month if you seek funding. That information will be shared with student leaders. Please email me with any questions. As far as tonight, this is meant to be precursory, there will be no voting tonight. We have a number of presentations. Voting membership is based on official recognition by the university as a group, incorporated for 2-3 years, 25+ students, and a vested interest in the maintenance of quality of life at UVA. If you want to present a proposal in the future, take a quarter sheet at the back of the room. Email the VPA and DUR at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. The purpose is to present proposals that need to gain support of the student body to increase their recognition to administrators and BOV. Tonight, we have Dean Goluboff of UVA Law who will discuss August 11 and 12, Bryanna will talk about BOV, Wes Gobar will talk about the BSA demands, and UGS about their new tour campaign.

Dean Goluboff: Thank you for coming, I am glad for that introduction. I am dean of the law school, and have been for a year, faculty for 14 years, and 1 month in the August 11 and 12 working group. I will share what we have been doing and will do going forward. The dean's working group is made up of school deans, Bryanna, the library dean, and others that are not central administrators. We have 3 charges. The first is safety and security in the aftermath. That meant the report released last Monday, identifying what could have been done better, and identified policy areas for the future. One was making the Lawn a facility to prevent arms carrying there. Additionally, prior to those events, the university policy on open flames required approvals but did not share them with UPD, and now that has been changed. That

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must now be changed into regulation. Finally, we are looking at time, place, and manner policies on non-violent protests and speech. That is a much more complicated question. The university has had a robust commitment to free speech, and I think most of us here want to support speech and diversity. But, had there been a permit approval process, there could be more tools available. This is not an attempt to shut down nonviolent demonstrations on grounds. We are taking longer because we are taking a lot of care. We've also launched a website to share programming on grounds with a comment section.

The two other parts are looking inward to see how we fulfill our aspirations towards being diverse, tolerant and equitable. We are looking at the culture and climate of the university. We will do a pan-university climate survey. We have questions about the relationship between our community and law enforcement. We have just begun to implement this, but we must first identify what climate means. The second piece is that the BOV voted to remove the Confederate plaques on the Rotunda. Now we figure out where they go, and how to fill that space. We are close to creating an advisory committee on the historical landscape. The third charge is how we will study and teach about these events that the whole world is watching. We need to make sense of these events, white supremacy, the second amendment, and politics. We will be thinking about longer term implications. We recommended that the Woodson Institute be provided with more resources, and that the democracy initiative have funding more quickly. There will be lots of opportunity for the future.

Mary Grace: I am in Sustained Dialogue, and I'm wondering if your group had any response to the Jefferson statue protest last Tuesday.

Dean Goluboff: We played no role. The group is made up of people who have other jobs, but I would say this has been my focus for the last month. We are not a roving responder in the aftermath, we don't see ourselves in that role. We are assisting the university in the response. We add those responses to our research in the climate and culture, to see what issues need to be addressed. People are integrating new knowledge as it comes in, but it's not in our portfolio.

Matthew: I am glad you are talking about integrating graduate students. Grad students were here all summer, and at that event, most people focused on undergraduates. There were lots of reports about the weekend, but many international students chose to leave.

Dean Goluboff: As the dean of a school with only graduate students, I am very aware that those voices need to be heard as well. On August 12, most of my international students arrived to the country on that day. Reaching out to them and ensuring their safety was a huge priority.

Clara: I was wondering why you chose not to include more students in the working group, especially those directly affected.

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Dean Goluboff: I did not convene the working group, I was assigned to it. I have heard that desire before. My view is that Bryanna is the only student on the group, and she is very effective in providing student viewpoints depending on the topic. She carries a lot of weight. The way I think about the committee is that it is very small, and needs to act quickly. Therefore, it doesn't have a lot of people, but has acted quickly. We have been working very hard. It would have been easy to make a big committee representative of everyone, and those voices are all important, but I think the size is an indication of its purpose and needed nimbleness. You must balance transparency and inclusion with the need to act. I have spent many hours reaching out to people including those that were there. I value the nature of the dialogue and need to hear people's voices. We must be vigilant about hearing voices, but I think the group's organization is okay. I value hearing from you. I was at the Mudhouse a week ago and someone heard me talking on the phone, they approached me, and we had a good conversation. I want to make myself accessible as possible.

Kyle: How can we help you?

Dean Goluboff: Tell me what you think needs to be done. Use the input form, send emails, and attend events. We are planning some round table discussions. What are your ideas for how you can help? I have been doing this focused on getting this done, but there are still questions. Clara, one of the other ways for the advisory committee on the historical landscape, and others, there will be students involved there as well. If you have suggestions, I would welcome them. So much of the response from those events has been students producing programs and events. They are not things that can come from the top down, and the fact that you all do it is incredible. It's important to put up what is coming and what has been. There has been an outpouring of activity and response. I really want your help, but don't know what it looks like.

Anelle: I am confused as to why none of the students at the statue are not on the working group. I know you have spoken to them, but have you made effort to get them on it?

Dean Goluboff: I have not. Is it a symbolic meaning for those students to be on the committee? I want to understand what it means to be on the working group, as opposed to having access and input.

Anelle: I think the group is being tasked with a lot of decisions, and if it centered solely around August 11 and 12, it doesn't make sense. If they are making decisions about this event, you need those students there.

Dean Goluboff: I get it. The way I think about it is that the students who were there are an important voice in this process, but I feel terribly sorry that they were put in harm's way. I am doing everything I can to make sure it doesn't happen again. The group's mission goes far beyond those events, and it should. I think there are many groups across grounds who would feel the need to be on the group as well, and it is

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undeniable that those voices should be heard. But I think that including everyone would make it difficult to actually act. I understand wanting to be at the table, but that is not the only room where it happens. We have to do something in response to those events and beyond. I am committed to making sure that everyone's voices are heard. I think student self-governance is incredibly important, and we take that seriously.

Bryanna: I am happy to represent all of you in the working group and the BOV. There are four BOV meetings per year, and there will be 20 minutes allocated to the student life committee. This will allow students to provide feedback and ask questions. I want to talk about how your organizations can present before the board. The primary way is to present at the student senate meetings. That proposal has to pass student senate by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, and then the sponsors will meet with you to discuss options. I can present it for you, you can do it during the period, or you can meet with administrators. The goals of this programs are to increase student engagement and elevate student voice. Representing 24,000 students is hard, and I want them to hear your voices. There's a secondary way in special circumstances. In the September meeting, the proposal sponsor met with me personally. If you cannot be there, I can present for you. Examples of proposal areas include dining, housing, and parking. The BOV is focused on high line strategy and policy issues, not quite the day to day. If it is day to day, it may be better to redirect it to administration.

Mary Grace: How often does the BOV meet?

Bryanna: Five times a year.

Gen Bod 1: You don't have any voting rights, right?

Bryanna: You cannot in the state of Virginia, neither can faculty members.

Wes: I am the president of BSA, and want to thank you for having me today. There are many ways of making your voice heard. I will be speaking about my presentation about the March to Reclaim our Grounds to the BOV. I went through the demands, and gave them context. The Rotunda is the centerpiece of the university which demonstrates our values, and Confederate soldiers fought for slavery. I mentioned how many cities have thrown down their Confederate statues, and we should be at the forefront of the movement. I also explained why it looked good for UVA. I spoke on enrollment for African American students, making clear that it was a goal and not a quota. I mentioned how we have high acceptance rates for those students, but that enrollment is still struggling. I suggested more merit based scholarship that target minority students. I spoke on faculty and the strategic diversity plan. We need an overarching plan in addition to school specific ones. I also discussed the Center for Race and Ethnicity proposal that was rejected last semester, which would help solve the minority hiring problem. It wasn't just the board in the meeting, but also the president and provost, and I feel like it illuminated the issues to those in the room.

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The provost emailed me after ensuring that he understood my rationale. I hope you use these tools as well. I found it to be particularly effective.

Mary: I am the vice chair of UGS. This is the “If These Grounds Could Talk.” It is the idea of combining historical tours with a dialogue for new and incoming students at UVA. It provides context on race relation at UVA and in Cville as a whole. We are partnering with HRL, StudCo, and other groups. It would be 45 minutes tours followed by a 15-minute dialogue with RAs. In the next three weeks, we want to hit every dorm, with 1-3 tours per dorm. After the dialogue, our later goal is to have a 1 hour dialogue to follow up helped by Sustained Dialogue. We have talked about the importance of student input, and new students need a place to discuss this. The structure for transfers will be led by TSPAs with food. The goals include addressing Thomas Jefferson as a paradox, with respect to slavery. Jefferson has a really conflicting legacy. New students need to be empowered to better understand this. The second goal is to reveal the agency of enslaved people at UVA. Professors often had enslaved laborers working for them. First years living in gibbons may not have known who they were. These stories are important to regain their agency. Next is to generate awareness about the legacies of race-based oppression at UVA. This includes the renaming of Jordan Hall and learning about black leaders like James Roebuck. The final goal is to promote conversation and solicit suggestions for the future. We want to empower new students to continue learning about this. Feel free to email any of us with questions. If you want to take a tour, we always do special request tours.

Galen: I was wondering what training RAs would get.

Mary: My understanding is that tour guides would be trained on this tour, and Sustained Dialogue would put up prompts.

Mary Grace: We will have manuals for RAs and optional training for RAs.

Gen Bod 2: I am curious as to why housing is involved, and why it’s an RA program. Why not use Guides and Special Collections?

Mary: The goal is to target new students at UVA, who likely didn’t have any context going in. We are using HRL’s structure to make it as widespread as possible.

Gen Bod 3: Will it be for incoming students as well so they know what they’re getting into?

Mary: The plan is to continue these, but aim it after the semester starts.

The Student Senate ended at 7:33 PM.

The Legislative Session began at 7:40 PM.

Roll call.

Motion to vote on the 9-19-17 minutes. Seconded. Passed.

David: I also wanted to note that we have a new Batten rep that was appointed yesterday. Additionally, Alex Cintron will be the chair of the RER committee to make sure reps are reaching out to their deans.

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David: This was shared with you last week, and intends to amend the bylaws.

Lukas: This will apply to 2019 elections?

David: It will let the fall and spring transfers run for that year, which is going on now. The spring cycle will have two seats.

Lukas: What's the threshold for voting?

David: 50%

Eddie: If there is an amendment for transfers, I think there should be one for spring and one for fall.

Motion to vote on FB17-07. Seconded. Passed.

Eddie: I was talking with Austin about the Islamophobic hate speech on grounds. The MSA told me that they feel the police did not respond as strongly as they should have. For hate speech, I feel like it is still on grounds and StudCo could do a lot more. I was looking at UJC's code of conduct, and hate speech wasn't listed. We want more timely responses and more discussions with UPD.

Motion to vote on FR17-08. Seconded. Passed.

Sarah: This appoints the new chair of rules and ethics board. It oversees a committee comprised on UJC, Honor, and a few others to monitor the procedural on-goings of StudCo.

David: The appointed chair then appoints the member of the committee in the next few weeks.

Motion to vote on FB17-09. Seconded. Passed.

The Legislative Session ended at 7:52 PM