

Code of Conduct prompts new bill

Bill Mitchell, vice-president of the Student Government Association, attended a meeting last Saturday at which a Bill of Rights for all students attending state institutions was drawn up.

Student leaders from UVA, VPI, Va. Commonwealth University, William and Mary, George Mason College and ODU met in Richmond at the VCU campus. According to Mitchell, the Bill of Rights was drawn up "in response to the implementation of Student Codes of Conduct at all state institutions, and as an attempt to achieve a sense of solidarity among all state institutions.

The document was drawn up by the student leaders, for the most part student government officials, with the help of American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, Larry Selden. The bill is only at the first stages of completion at this point.

"Although this Bill of Rights will be modified somewhat by each school to suit their needs", said Mitchell, "the document is to remain basically the same.

"At Old Dominion it is hoped that the Bill of Rights will be approved by the Faculty and Student Caucuses and a student referendum. Afterwards it will be forwarded to the University Senate and then on to the Board of Visitors. "In late November the schools will meet again to discuss the results at each school. If each school can have this document approved by its

Board of Visitors then the Bill will be sent to the State Legislature in the hopes that they can suggest that similar measures be taken in private institutions."

The whole spirit of the document, as Bill Mitchell states it, is to "create a University which is a free institution by establishing a workable, forward looking, self-governing society.

"Thus, the University should recognize the academic freedom of students which encompasses the right to discuss and question evidence of opinions supporting or critical of accepted beliefs, to hear speakers on all points of view, to express opinions through all media without censorship and to organize in exercise of these rights.

"Students must have the right to free inquiry, expression and dissent, right to due process and equal treatment, assuring for students the full enjoyment of their constitutional liberties".

Besides Mitchell, the conference was attended by : Jim Elam, President and Mary Tisdale, vice-president of the SGA at Virginia Commonwealth University; Sandy Hawthorne, Pat Michaelson, Ann Rutledge and Marc Adams of the SGA at VPI; Winn Ledgerton, Tim Groves and Deb Donelson of the SGA at William and Mary College; Bill Bailey and Jim Corrigan, student leaders of George Mason; and Barb Bailey and Laurie, two UVA Law School students.