

# ADMINISTRATIVE & PROFESSIONAL FACULTY MEETING

Thursday May, 24 2012  
8:30 A.M. Hurlburt Center

## Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approve April 2012 Minutes
- III. Academic Affairs Open Senate Seat: Special Election
- IV. Senate Executive Board Elections
- V. IG community forum 6/6/12
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends,

As the world of higher education grows ever more complex, so too do the pressures on higher-ed institutions to adopt models of efficiency rather than those of participatory government. For good reason, however, shared governance is among one of the most highly valued dimensions of university life, and the practice of shared governance is often cited as a defining characteristic of the academy. Nowhere are these values and principles held in higher regard than at Radford University. It is for this reason that the executive councils of our faculty and staff senates have committed to working together to provide the University community with opportunities for meaningful dialogue about the ways we can further realize a healthy and efficient IG structure.

To initiate this community dialogue, in consultation with the presidents of the faculty, AP, and staff senates I investigated different models by which higher-education institutions pursue shared governance discussions. As a result of this process, we identified **Mr. Rodney A. Smolla**, a prominent First Amendment scholar and current President of Furman University, as a potential consultant. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Smolla has agreed to serve as a discussion facilitator for us as we move forward with our self-study. **Mr. Smolla will be making the first of three visits to our campus on June 6 in order to facilitate a series of small focus groups followed by one larger "Town Hall" meeting.**

**All members of the campus community are invited to participate in this day of dialogue.**

**FOCUS GROUP LOGISTICS:**

All focus groups will be held on June 6 in the CHBS Dean's Conference Room, Russell 117 (light refreshments will be provided).

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**Note that the day of dialogue will conclude with a Town Hall Discussion from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. in Russell 113.**

**Please RSVP to [ewebster2@radford.edu](mailto:ewebster2@radford.edu) (or 831-7149) with the time of the focus group you plan to attend.**

(No RSVP is necessary for attendance at the Town Hall meeting.)

President Smolla has extensive experience facilitating the process through which higher education communities examine governance on their campuses. As noted earlier, he is a recognized First Amendment scholar, and has extensive expertise and experience related to First Amendment issues and higher education. Since 1980 he has held a variety of faculty and administrative posts at higher-ed institutions and has played a significant role in shared governance discussions at University of Richmond, Washington and Lee, William and Mary, and, most recently, at Furman University. His visit will be merely the first of many opportunities for meaningful discussions of the ways we can ensure that not only are our voices heard (TR and AP faculty, staff, and student), but that there are clear and efficient mechanisms in place for ensuring that the things we say, the suggestions and decisions we make, matter and will or can be acted upon.

Please join in this day of dialogue, and thank you for all that you do in support of shared governance at RU.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Erin Webster-Garrett

Intern, Office of the Provost

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