

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

January 20, 2021

Zoom

Members Present: Jessie Beckett, Scott Bennett, Sandra Bond, Andy Borak, Chris Bridgers, Ashlee Claud, Emily Ewoldt, Mel Fox, Alix Guynn, James Harman, Steve Harrison, Kay Johnson,

1. **Call to Order:** After technical difficulties, the meeting called to order at 3:34 pm by President Ashlee Claud.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from November 18, 2020 were approved.
3. **Guest Speaker:** Vice President for Student Affairs, Susan Trageser.
Trageser gave an update on Spring 2021 student testing, classes, expectations, and safe student activities at main campus and RUC.
 - COVID testing – Prevalence testing recently concluded. Each student completed a travel declaration. Staggered returns were based on survey data and other VDH information. Residential students coming from high prevalence areas were asked to test. Positivity rates are low. More broadscale testing all semester at Buchanan House, with walkup testing for faculty/staff. Testing is also at RUC. All testing is only for asymptomatic people. Those with symptoms should contact health provider. Reminder that masks are still required as are gathering limitations.
 - Opportunities for students – Student Affairs has worked diligently & intently to provide opportunities, with all programming listed in RU Involved, the central place for everyone to post events. One event was Winter Wonderland, with each room having something different for rotating small numbers of students. The Winter Club Fair will be virtually held over a week, with a different focus each day. Upcoming events in April include Halfway There for sophomores, Twilight for juniors, and Signing Day for seniors. A freshman event will be added in spring.
 - Food Pantry Launch – Sponsored by HEHROS, and marketed predominantly for students, but also available to support faculty and staff. Details are being finalized. Send those in need to the Dean of Students office in the meantime.
 - MLK Day of Service – This year will feature donation and monetary drives in partnership with Feeding SW Virginia. Also taking donations of can openers.
 - Q&A & Discussion:
 - Q – Are apartment students required to get entrance testing?
A – Yes, based on their travel location.
 - Q – Will testing sites become vaccination sites?
A – That is our hope. We want to give vaccinations to faculty and staff ASAP.
 - Comment – An event where t-shirts were given away at RUC got great feedback. We are looking forward to signature events at RUC.
Feedback – We are starting to increase branding at RUC. The student place called the Dog House had a content to be renamed. It's now the Highlander House.

- Comment – I am impressed with Ashley Schumaker, Susan and others about getting through last semester, and I’ve heard positive feedback.
Feedback – We are student-centered. Spring Break was hard for our students, but a good decision
- Q – The vaccination survey had a travel question. Will faculty and staff need to travel to Main Campus?
A – The goal would be to have vaccinations at all sites. Radford University is spread over three health districts, so it may be based on where you can get the vaccine.
- Q – Would faculty and staff be asked to report their vaccinations?
A – I wouldn’t be surprised if that was asked on a revisit of the other survey.
- Q – Events for students. Are there any key principles we should keep in mind about engaging students?
A – The biggest principle is the communication point. Students are on technology in every facet of their lives, but they still crave face-to-face opportunities. We’re all tired of Zoom. Consider ways to intentionally have in-person communication. We may be able to get outside more when it gets warmer. Events can be rotational. Anything we can do is beneficial to our students’ well-being. They like to see us and have us participate. If you see something on RU-Involved, pop in for 5 minutes. There are also opportunities for tabling; student groups reserve tables or other spaces at the Bonnie. Some do fund-raisers, pass out handouts, or hold other events.

4. Budget Update: Ashlee spoke with VP Chad Reed. He was optimistic that there are no impending budget cuts this year or next. A bigger concern is 2023-2024. Radford has some one-time funding through the COVID CARES Act. Financial-need based aid has been restored. The CAIC building is fully-funded. Steve Harrison added that the building was just funded and a lot of process needs to take place. The goal is to have a construction site sometime this fall.

5. Upcoming Events:

- Men’s and Women’s Basketball is underway.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 2021 Speaker Series: First one is January 21 at 9:00 AM via Zoom. Trisha Smith is presenting on Equity in Customer Service.
- Webinar on Recognizing Students in Stress by CITL – Jan. 28, 2:30.
- Alumni Relations (Sandra Bond) – February is Highlander Month. Webinars will be hosted every Wednesday on how you can be a volunteer for Radford University. See our website. Something will be added to the schedule every day.
- Admissions (Emily Ewoldt) – We are hosting a slew of events. If you know anyone applying to Radford, let us know. We would love to connect with them. We’re aware of Zoom fatigue.

- Office of Institutional Effectiveness (Mel Fox) – Upcoming SACS reaffirmation visit is in 2023, and touches everyone on campus. You may be asked to be on committees. Start getting ideas for next QEP. Proposals will be solicited.
- ARTGAWK at the Covington Center – You’ll be impressed by our permanent collection. https://calendar.radford.edu/cvpa/view/event/event_id/2491
- Theatrical Performances (David Wheeler) – Two different theatrical performances are upcoming. *When She Had Wings* is in February. *The Liar*, is the first or second week of April. Details online: <https://www.radford.edu/content/cvpa/home/theatre/onstage/current-season.html>
- Capital Campaign (Sandra Bond) – We are still in the silent phase of the capital campaign. The public campaign is coming.

6. New Business – Morale Survey: After brief discussion led by Ashlee Claud, the Senate agreed to put together an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a morale survey for the AP Faculty. Committee members are Ashlee, Jessie Beckett, Mary Catherine Santoro, and Kay Johnson.

7. Adjournment – The meeting ended at 4:25 pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

- February 17
- March 17
- April 15