

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
DECEMBER 2, 2021
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
MARTIN HALL, SECOND FLOOR, RADFORD, VA

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Krisha Chachra, Chair
Dr. Debra K. McMahon, Vice Chair
Ms. Lisa W. Pompa
Mr. Marquett Smith
Ms. Lisa Throckmorton
Ms. Grace Hurst, Non-Voting Student Advisory Member

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jay A. Brown, Vice Rector
Mr. Mark S. Lawrence
Ms. Nancy Angland Rice

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Krisha Chachra, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room in Martin Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Chachra asked for a motion to approve the December 2, 2021 meeting agenda for the Student Success Committee, as published. Ms. Lisa Throckmorton so moved, Mr. Marquett Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Chachra asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting of the Student Success Committee, as published. Dr. Debra McMahon so moved, Ms. Throckmorton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Student Government Association

Student Government Association (SGA) President Grace Hurst presented an update on SGA's initiatives for the academic year. SGA participated in the Trunk or Treat at Riverlawn Elementary School and hosted tailgates at sporting events, voter registration drives and wellness events. Ms. Hurst added that the SGA has passed a bill to make the promotion of mental health awareness a priority. Volunteer days will be identified in spring semester where students will be donating time at local food kitchens and elementary schools. The Student Finance Committee

(SFC) has worked closely with SGA this semester to educate the Executive Board on SFC policies and recruit new members. SFC has also assigned a liaison to all SGA funded organizations.

Ms. Hurst shared that SGA collaborated with University Advancement to encourage students to write thank you notes to donors. SGA has an increased focus on sustainability events than in the past several years. Their largest effort has been to collect plastic bags to recycle in exchange for a park bench. Enough bags have been collected to obtain a second bench to be placed on campus.

Family Matters

Associate Vice President for Student Life Tricia Smith and Associate Dean of Students Bruce Hayden gave a presentation showcasing how Student Affairs staff collaborate with and support families. An overview was given on the expectations of the current generation of students and how relationships between students and families have evolved over the years. Families now are more involved with their student than ever before. Radford University takes many response and advocacy measures to assist and counsel students and their families.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Hayden shared that Student Affairs' proactive approach to assist and educate families begins at Quest. Families receive a monthly newsletter. A virtual Highlander Family Course that includes topics of academics, safety, responsibility and involvement is offered each semester. A Parent Committee was formed to gather feedback and be a point of contact for families. Additional outreach includes mailings to first-generation families and family weekend events.

Student Affairs

Vice President for Student Affairs Susan Trageser, Ed.D. presented the Student Affairs update to the Committee. Dr. Trageser provided an overview of the Tartan Residential Education Kit (TREK), which is the residential curriculum used by Housing and Residential Life to guide programming and community building. The residential curriculum has achievement measures to determine effectiveness and outcomes. Living-Learning Communities (LLC) are another way for students to build a sense of belonging. Students participating in an LLC on average are more successful academically and are retained at higher rates than students who are not part of an LLC. Interest will be gauged with campus partners to create new LLCs or themed housing.

Student Recreation and Wellness and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) partnered to host Feel Good Fridays, which are self-care awareness events such as yoga, hiking and meditation. CDI has also held Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings and cultural heritage month events this semester.

The Center for Accessibility Services (CAS) has seen an increase in requests for transcription services due to COVID-19 health and safety measures such as the indoor masking requirement. CAS partners with areas across campus such as the Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility, Harvey Knowledge Center and RUC Academic Support to offer study skills workshops. There is now a designated staff member at RUC to provide academic accommodations.

Vice President Trageser added that Fraternity and Sorority Life has recommitted to focus on philanthropy and service across all chapters and councils. Several chapters held service projects

at local schools by reading to children, providing tutoring services and volunteering at extracurricular functions.

Substance Abuse and Violence Education Support (SAVES) has secured the renewal of the Collegiate Recovery Grant. The grant supports the role of the Recovery Support Specialist and increased support for students in recovery and allies. During recovery awareness month, keynote speaker Lauren Sisler, ESPN reporter and Giles County native, was hosted on campus to share her story of overcoming family tragedy from addiction.

Vice President Trageser closed by sharing that the Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility hosted several events for first-generation students, including an Open House, Fall Palooza, luncheon during Family Weekend and a week of events surrounding National Gen Day on November 8.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Chachra adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jenni Tunstall
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Secretary to the Committee