

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

**1:00 P.M.**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

**KYLE HALL, ROOM 340, RADFORD, VA**

### **DRAFT** **MINUTES**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Jeanne Armentrout, Chair

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Vice Chair

Mr. Robert A. Archer

Mr. George Mendiola

Dr. Kurt Gingrich, (Non-Voting Faculty Advisory Representative)

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT**

Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President

Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost

Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs

Ms. Penny Helms White, Interim Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Dannette Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications

Ms. Karen Castelee, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Mike Melis, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Ms. Susan Richardson, University Counsel

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Jeanne Armentrout, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in Kyle Hall on the campus of Radford University.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Armentrout asked for a motion to approve the September 7, 2023 agenda. Mr. Robert Archer so moved, Mr. George Mendiola seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Armentrout asked for a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 minutes. Dr. Kurt Gingrich stated that he was not in attendance at the June 8, 2023 Board of Visitors meeting and noted his colleague, Dr. David Beach, was there in attendance. With that change, Mr. Robert Archer so moved, Dr. Betty Jo Foster seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **PRESENTATION**

Dr. Joe Wirgau, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, gave an overview of Undergraduate Research Experiences which was first established in 2014. He introduced Leah Ellis, a junior in the Nutrition and Dietetics program. Ms. Ellis chose to come to Radford University because of the specialized opportunities that were shared with her before coming to campus. Since arriving, she has participated in programs that have enhanced her experiences, such as Radford Research Rookies, Accelerated Research Opportunities LLC (ARO), Summer Undergraduate Research Foundation (SURF) and Translational Obesity Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (TOURS). Taking part in all the programs offered by Radford led her to being offered a research assistant position at Virginia Tech.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES**

Dr. Jessica Stowell, Director, Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement, gave a brief update on the SACSCOC site visit. There was one recommendation provided regarding adjunct evaluations. The final decision will come from SACSCOC in December 2023. Realizing Inclusive Student Excellence (RISE) QEP has launched, and the first faculty cohort selected. The RISE Community Action Teams (RCATS) have also started in each college.

Provost Bethany Usher spoke with enthusiasm regarding the Faculty Awards and what such dynamic faculty brings to our campus and students.

Provost Usher updated the committee regarding the 2023-2025 Academic Affairs goals. The main challenge being: Adapt to deliver on our academic mission with fewer students and fewer resources in the short-term AND position Radford University to thrive in the future. Provost Usher went on to explain the goals.

Goal 1: Define and capitalize on Radford University's distinctive academic programs and experiences.

- Defined AA Mission Statement
- Defined and intentional catalog of programs that are distinctive to RU
- Distinctive REAL general Education curriculum that supports major exploration, transfer student success
- Every student graduates career-ready with at least one high-impact experience
- Campus constituents will build skills and dispositions for constructive dialogue across perspectives and differences

Goal 2: Stabilize enrollment through increased student matriculation and reduced attrition.

- Clearly defined pathways for VCCS students to transfer to RU
- Students equitably completing 100/200 level courses
- Enrolled students persist and graduate from RU

- Radford students/alumni complete graduate degrees at RU
- Consortium agreement between Radford and Virginia Tech
- Radford students will have preferential admission to graduate programs at VA R1s

Goal 3: Streamline Academic Affairs to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

- Defined and intentional catalog of programs that are distinctive to RU
- Permanent Academic Affairs Leadership Council with realigned duties
- Intentional program placement at all sites (RU, RUC/RHEC, SWHEC, Selu, +)
- Faculty and staff aligned with academic program and student needs, based on Academic Affairs mission and Radford's distinctive portfolio of programs and experiences

Expected outcomes, strategies, measures, baselines and targets were explained for each goal. Provost Usher then provided the timeline for identifying Radford University's distinctive academic programs, beginning with developing an Academic Affairs mission statement by September 2023 and continuing through Spring 2025.

Provost Usher also shared the very sad news of the passing of the University Registrar, Matthew Brunner.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

Ms. Armentrout announced as an informational item the eight faculty members who were awarded emeritus status. President Danilowicz noted the significance of this achievement and that it is recommended by faculty colleagues and approved by their chair, dean, the provost and the president.

### **FACULTY SENATE**

Dr. Kurt Gingrich began by thanking President Danilowicz and Provost Usher for building trust between the faculty and the administration.

Dr. Gingrich reviewed Faculty Senate Achievements of 2022-2023

- Required faculty use of LMS
- Resolution on Academic Freedom and Civil Discourse
- Handbook Language for Workload Optimization
- Efforts to improve equity among learning sites
- Scores of curriculum updates.

Dr. Gingrich reviewed Faculty Senate Goals for 2023-2024

- Assist the provost's efforts to define the mission of Academic Affairs and the distinctive programs and pedagogies of RU
- Gather information on students' perspectives regarding REAL and attendance policies
- Examine processes for approving new minors and sunseting low enrolled minors
- Consider changes to handbook language on Special Purpose faculty.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Armentrout, adjourned the meeting at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Montgomery

Executive Assistant to the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

End of Board of Visitors Materials

