

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

SPECIAL MEETING

9:00 A.M.

MAY 12, 2021

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND
MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM
THIRD FLOOR, MARTIN HALL, RADFORD, VA**

DRAFT **MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT IN BOARD ROOM

Mr. Robert A. Archer, Rector

BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Dr. Thomas Brewster

Dr. Jay A. Brown

Mr. Gregory A. Burton

Ms. Krisha Chachra

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes

Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston

Mr. Mark S. Lawrence

Dr. Debra K. McMahon

Ms. Nancy Angland Rice

Mr. David A. Smith

Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham

Ms. Lisa Throckmorton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. James R. Kibler, Jr., Vice Rector

Ms. Karyn K. Moran

OTHERS PRESENT IN BOARD ROOM

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill, President

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

Ms. Ashley Schumaker, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategic Operations

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs

OTHERS PARTICIPATING BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Mr. Allen T. Wilson, Assistant Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia

Advanced notice for real-time public electronic access to the meeting was provided.

CALL TO ORDER

Rector Robert A. Archer called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and welcomed the Board of Visitors members and the public to the special convened meeting. Due to a technical issue and no sound, a recess was called. The meeting reconvened at 9:27 a.m. Rector Archer stated that the meeting was called to continue the discussion of the global health pandemic and its impact on the University. Rector Archer applauded President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. for his leadership during the pandemic and stated that the Board of Visitors and the administration continue to work together to make the best possible decisions for the health, safety and well-being of the students, faculty and staff, as well as the community at large.

RESOLUTION FOR REQUIRED IMMUNIZATION RECORDS FOR STUDENTS

Rector Archer called upon Assistant Attorney General Allen T. Wilson, J.D. to provide background on the recent opinion issued by Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring regarding whether public institutions of higher education can condition in-person attendance on receipt of an approved COVID-19 vaccine during this time of the pandemic. In summary, Mr. Wilson stated that the opinion of the Attorney General is that the Boards of Visitors of the Virginia's state institutions of higher education have the authority to require students to have the COVID -19 vaccine.

Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategic Operations Ashley Schumaker provided an overview of recent endorsements of the COVID-19 vaccine and national trends, including announcements made by other institutions.

Vice President for Student Affairs Susan P. Trageser, Ed.D. shared with the Board of Visitors members the preliminary updates to health records and other documentation and processes should a requirement of the vaccine be required.

A copy of the presentation is attached hereto as *Attachment A* and is made a part hereof.

CLOSED SESSION

Rector Archer requested a motion to move into closed session. Dr. Thomas Brewster made the motion that the Radford University Board of Visitors convene a closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) Item 7 under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for consultation with legal counsel on matters related to student vaccinations, requiring the provision of legal advice.

Mr. Mark S. Lawrence seconded the motion. The Board of Visitors went into closed session at 9:40 a.m.

RECONVENED SESSION

Following closed session, public access to the meeting was reconnected after a delay with a technical issue. Rector Archer called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. On the motion made by Dr. Brewster and seconded by Ms. Nancy Angland Rice, the following resolution of certification was presented.

Resolution of Certification

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Radford University Board of Visitors certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Roll Call	Vote
Dr. Thomas Brewster	Yes
Dr. Jay A. Brown	Yes
Mr. Gregory A. Burton	Yes
Ms. Krisha Chachra	Yes
Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes	Yes
Mr. Mark S. Lawrence	Yes
Dr. Debra K. McMahan	Yes
Ms. Nancy Angland Rice	Yes
Mr. David A Smith	Yes
Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham	Yes
Ms. Lisa Throckmorton	Yes
Mr. Robert A. Archer, Rector	Yes

Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston left the meeting at 10 a.m.

The resolution of certification was unanimously adopted.

Rector Archer asked for a motion to approve the resolution as discussed in closed session. Dr. Brewster so moved, Ms. Rice seconded, and the motion carried by roll call vote. (Ayes: Brewster, Brown, Burton, Chachra, Fowlkes, Lawrence, McMahan, Rice, Smith, Snyder-Falkinham, Throckmorton and Archer; Nays: None) A copy of the resolution is attached hereto as ***Attachment B*** and is made a part hereof.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Rector Archer adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Castele
Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President

COVID-19 Vaccination

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Attorney General's Recent Issuance

Recent Endorsements

In late April, the American College Health Association (ACHA) recommended that higher education institutions mandate COVID-19 vaccination for all students entering and returning to campuses in the fall.

ACHA did qualify its statement by adding “where state law and available resources allow.”

National Trends

- **No Requirement**
- **Requirement**
- **Delayed Requirement**

Impacted Groups

- **Students**
- **Students, Faculty, and Staff**

Latest Announcements

- **Rowan University** has announced a vaccine requirement for students who live or study on campus, and some incentives for getting the vaccine.
 - Full-time students who provide proof of vaccination will receive a \$500 credit on course registration.
 - Students who live on campus will receive a \$500 housing credit.
- **Harvard University** announced that it will require all students who will be on campus this fall to be vaccinated.

Latest Announcements

- The **University System of Maryland** will require all students, faculty members and other employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19 by the fall.
- The **University of Michigan** will require vaccines for students who plan to live on campus in the fall.
- The **University of California and California State University** systems are planning to require all students, faculty members and other employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by the fall.

Latest Announcements

- **Wayne State University** will pay students \$10 if they provide proof of vaccination by May 10.
- **Iowa's public universities** will encourage but not require COVID-19 vaccinations in the fall for students.
- **Rutgers University** was the first college with such a requirement. It was followed by **Cornell University** and **Nova Southeastern University** (*which subsequently reversed its position due to the passage of a state law*).

Updated Forms and Other Processes

COVID-19 Vaccination

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**RADFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
RESOLUTION**

MAY 12, 2021

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the Radford University campus are of the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, the Radford University Board of Visitors fully supports the benefits and importance of the COVID-19 vaccine in both responding to and managing the ongoing global health pandemic;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Radford University Board of Visitors delegates its authority and directs the President to determine if the requirement of the COVID-19 vaccine be a condition of in-person attendance by students, as well as to take any further actions necessary as dictated by current conditions to implement any such requirement, and that any decision will be based upon the health and safety of the campus and surrounding community.

Adopted: May 12, 2021



Robert A. Archer
Rector
Radford University Board of Visitors



Karen Castele
Secretary to the Board of Visitors
Radford University

End of Board of Visitors Materials

