

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

## GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

4 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

MARTIN HALL, SECOND FLOOR, RADFORD, VA

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

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. David A. Smith, Chair

Ms. Nancy Angland Rice, Vice Chair

Dr. Thomas Brewster

Ms. Charlene A. Curtis

Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Robert G. Lineburg, Director of Athletics

Dr. Angela Joyner, Interim Chief of Staff

Dr. Holly Cline, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative

Mr. Cory Durand, Deputy Athletics Director

Ms. Lisa Greiner, Associate Director of Athletics and Auxiliary Services

Ms. Alix Guynn, Associate Director for Student-Athlete Support Services

Mr. Chad Reed, Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Malinda Tasler, Associate Director for Compliance

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. David A. Smith, Chair, formally called the Governance, Administration and Athletics Committee meeting to order at 3:58 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room in Martin Hall.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2021 agenda. Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston so moved, Ms. Charlene A. Curtis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting of the Governance, Administration and Athletics Committee, as published. Dr. Thomas Brewster so moved, Ms. Charlene A. Curtis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **INNOVATION, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Interim Chief of Staff Angela Joyner, Ph.D. greeted members of the Governance, Administration and Athletics Committee and others present. She then presented an overview of how Highlanders

navigate their career journey at Radford University and opportunities to increase engagement and ultimately drive positive outcomes for students beyond graduation.

### **Career Readiness**

Dr. Joyner discussed SkillSurvey, a 360-performance review platform for Fortune 500 Companies, and higher education. Dr. Joyner discussed how this platform explores competencies and functional areas for the workplace. This online tool will allow student employees to rate themselves in multiple areas and helps them understand soft skills, areas of improvement, and how they can build their skills and fill gaps. Dr. Joyner then provided a demonstration for the Committee. Following discussion, Dr. Joyner stated that students were on the Experiential Learning Taskforce and those who participated in the initial pilot are excited for the evaluation. It will help them understand where they are and also define the differences between student and employer ratings, allow them to follow up with career coaches at RU, have successful interactions with college internship coordinators, and beyond. This is a concerted effort but an effort well spent.

### **Talent Development**

Dr. Joyner provided information related to the connection between economic development partnerships, Military Resource Center connections, collaborations with student-athletes, and health sciences. Dr. Joyner shared that this is also in line with the strategic plan for the University. The Center for Career and Talent Development recently launched PathwayU, and is committed to help students with career development, financial well-being, and work-based learning.

Dr. Joyner informed the members of the Committee that in recent months the Center for Career and Talent Development added new members to the team. Jason Clayton, Director, brings extensive experience in career services and student affairs. Ms. Nicole Ramsey joined Radford University as the inaugural career coach supporting Radford University Carilion and Waldron College of Health and Human Services. Searches are near completion for the Career Coach, who will support the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the Marketing and Communications Specialist, who will lead the communication efforts for the Center. The Center for Career and Talent Development also introduced an expanded offering of recruiting options.

### **Economic Development**

Dr. Joyner shared other economic development partnerships, which included grant and intern opportunities with SCHEV, collaboration with Virginia Tech, University of Lynchburg and others for the Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership that launched in 2020. Dr. Joyner shared that partnerships are continuing to grow and that recent studies include information that many students from Radford University stay in the area. Dr. Joyner added that the GO Virginia project (Virginia's initiative for growth and opportunity in each region) is another area for students to leverage opportunities.

In closing, Dr. Joyner shared that all new students are enrolled in University 100, but do have the option to opt out. As we prepare to cycle through the first senior class that has engaged in career readiness, she disclosed that we are looking forward to seeing how experiential learning, workforce development, and retention rates are viewed. She stated that for nontraditional and adult learners, the IMPACT Lab is able to provide opportunities for online learning and credentialing. Dr. Joyner thanked the Committee for their time and support of Highlander students, faculty, staff and partners.

## **INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS REPORT**

Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg, greeted members of the Board, and provided a thank you to Mr. David Smith and Ms. Charlene A. Curtis, RU Athletics alumni, for their support. He also introduced members of the Athletics department who joined the meeting: Cory Durand, Deputy Athletics Director; Holly Cline, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative; Alix Guynn, Associate Director for Student-Athlete Support Services; Malinda Tasler, Associate Director for Compliance; and Lisa Greiner, Associate Director of Athletics and Auxiliary Services.

### **Academic Excellence**

Mr. Lineburg provided a brief recap of the academic success of all 275 student-athletes during the Spring 2021 semester. Adjustments due to the pandemic were made and still brought excellent numbers, while ensuring eligibility, safety and health.

The highlights include:

- 71% of all athletes received a 3.0 GPA or better (Big South Honor Roll)
- 55% of all athletes received a 3.4 GPA or better (Dean's List)
- 43 individual student-athletes received a perfect 4.0 GPA
- 13 of our 16 programs earned a team GPA of 3.0 or better
- Overall department GPA for the Spring semester was a 3.28

Other academic highlights focus on three individuals from the Spring semester

- Sydney Fisher – Softball
  - Big South Woman of the Year (only two other Radford student-athletes received this award in previous years)
  - Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year in Softball
  - Big South Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence
- Annsley Eckert – Women's Cross Country
  - Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year in Women's Cross Country
  - Big South Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence
- Anthony Galati – Baseball
  - Big South Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence

### **Student-Athlete Experience**

Mr. Lineburg provided information regarding “Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)” and shared that Radford Athletics partnered with INFLCR and Teamworks to provide all student-athletes a digital platform to assist with the new world of NIL. The app-based technology gives our student-athletes the proper tools to not only be educated on proper steps that need to be taken but also allows them to handle all transactions through the app. He stated that this is fair to students and a new way of thinking. The INFLCR app will also help our compliance staff monitor all transaction to ensure our student-athletes are properly doing the necessary items to stay compliant.

Mr. Lineburg answered questions from the Committee, and shared that this will be a contract between the student and the company. Mr. Lineburg also shared that he is in close contact with others in the profession and hopes to bring solid answers to the Committee at the next meeting.

### **Competitive Excellence**

Mr. Lineburg informed the Committee that the 2020-21 season was unprecedented and difficult but the results shined at the end of the day. Radford finished 3rd overall in the Big South Conference Sasser Cup standings. The Sasser Cup trophy is awarded to the Big South member institution with the most successful year athletically, based on an average points system. Points are awarded for both regular season and tournament finishes in each of the league's 19 championships, and the average of the combined total is used to determine the overall point allocation in the respective sport.

Mr. Lineburg shared information about two new head coaching hires over the summer, which are Samantha Hurley for Women's Lacrosse and Alisa Tasler for Softball. Samantha Hurley joins the University following a very successful career as the head coach at Young Harris College. Alisa Tasler joins the University after leading the Concord Mountain Lions for the past 10 seasons.

### **Resource Development**

Mr. Lineburg shared that as of September 1, 2021, the Athletics Department had secured just over \$250,000 in overall sponsorship revenue, which is just shy of last year's total of \$289,000. Mr. Lineburg also announced that Radford Athletics had a record setting fundraising year by securing over \$3.2 million in new gifts and pledges. Of that \$3.2 million almost \$800,000 was designated as unrestricted fund for the Highlander Club.

### **Important Dates and Initiatives**

Mr. Lineburg invited Ms. Alix Guynn to share information about the Women's Sports Leadership Luncheon. Ms. Guynn stated that the event will kick off with dinner and then a panel of speakers who will include former student-athletes. Ms. Guynn also shared information will be provided to foster student career navigation, including discussions with student-athletes who have other majors. Athletics will continue to work with the Radford University's Center for Career and Talent Development, sponsorships and are currently working to complete the attendee list, target audience, and expanding collaboration efforts to be prepared for the Women's Sports Leadership Luncheon launch in February.

Highlander Pride Weekend will occur Spring 2022 and include the Red & White Scholarship Auction, the Highlander Open Golf Tournament and the Highlander 5K.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MaDonna Overstreet  
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Interim Special Advisor Partnerships and Interim  
Chief Innovation Officer

End of Board of Visitors Materials

