

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**1:30 P.M.**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2022**

**MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM  
MARTN HALL, THIRD FLOOR, RADFORD, VA**

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

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair  
Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair  
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout  
Mr. Tyler Lester  
Dr. Kurt Gingrich, Non-voting Faculty Advisory Member

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert

#### **OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Debra K. McMahan, Rector

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President  
Dr. Marten denBoer, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Steven Bachrach, Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology  
Dr. Joy Bhadury, Dean of the Davis College of Business and Economics  
Ms. Karen Castele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President  
Dr. Stephanie Caulder, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts  
Dr. Tim Channell, Assistant Provost for Budget and Academic Operations  
Dr. Wendy Downey, Interim Dean of the School of Nursing  
Dr. Laura Jacobsen, Interim Dean of the Libraries  
Dr. Jane Machin, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing  
Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick, Associate Provost for Research, Faculty Development and Strategic Initiatives  
Dr. Jessica Stowell, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement  
Demiah Smith, Radford University Student

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m. in the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Memorial Board Room in Martin Hall.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2022 agenda. Mr. Tyler Lester so moved, Ms. Jeanne Armentrout seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting of the Academic Excellence and Research Committee, as published. Ms. Jeanne Armentrout so moved, Mr. Tyler Lester seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Marten denBoer reported on the following:

### **Academic Affairs proudly welcomed the following Deans**

Dr. Steven Bachrach serves as the new Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology. Dr. Bachrach comes to us from Monmouth University, where he served as dean of the School of Science. Dr. Stephanie Caulder is welcomed as the new Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Dr. Caulder comes to us from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she served as chair of the Department of Music. Dr. Laura Jacobsen is serving as Interim Dean of the Libraries. Dr. Jacobsen is a Radford faculty member in mathematics with extensive leadership experience at Radford. Dr. Wendy Downey is serving as Interim Dean in the School of Nursing.

### **Academic Affairs also welcomed the following Department Chairs**

Dr. Steven Fesmire serves as Chair of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Dr. Fesmire joined Radford University in August 2019 and currently is Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Dr. Wayne Gallops serves as Chair of the Music Department. Dr. Gallops joined Radford University in August of 2004 and currently is Professor in the Department of Music.

### **New Faculty for Fall 2022**

Radford University welcomed 38 new faculty, of whom 28 are new to Radford, for the 2022-2023 academic year. These faculty represent a number of disciplines and come as far away as Florida, New York, North Dakota, New Hampshire and Texas, as well as several from Virginia.

### **Emeritus**

Based on recommendations from the Department Personnel Committee, the Department Chair, the College Dean, and the Provost, the President has awarded emeritus status to the following retired faculty members.

#### **Faculty awarded emeritus status are:**

Professor Alison Pack	Department of Art
Professor Maung Htay	School of Computing and Information Sciences
Professor Robert Phillips	School of Computing and Information Sciences

Criteria for the awarding of emeritus faculty status are: a minimum of ten years of service to Radford University; evidence of effective teaching; and significant professional contributions

Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Marten denBoer continued by presenting the following:

### **Faculty Search Process**

Faculty are a major resource and a long-term investment for Radford University. In order for searches to begin earlier and for new faculty to start in Fall 2023, decisions have been made beginning in Fall 2022. With requests from the department and dean prioritizing the requests, Provost then analyzes requests across all colleges and makes decision to invest based on growth and demand.

### **Complete College America Conference**

2022 Annual Conference: BREAKTHROUGH will be held in Atlanta, GA on October 24-25, 2022. A faculty development opportunity to attend major conference on supporting student success. New ideas, new practices and break barriers to change. Eight academic leaders will be attending from Radford University.

### **Student Retention – Highlander Success Center**

A presentation from Dr. Nicole Hendrix will be presented in the Student Success Committee meeting. The presentation focuses on retention, progression, and graduation. The HSC consolidates units across the institution on these goals. Professional advising staff are the primary unit for connection and outreach to students.

### **Mountains, Rivers and Roads - Understanding Appalachia October 21-23, 2022 Voices exploring the science, culture art and history of Appalachia.**

The Honors College is hosting a symposium dedicated to finding connections and common ground, sharing interests and experiences relating to Appalachia from across Radford and beyond. The event will find and foster connections, sharing interests and experiences relating to Appalachia from all corners and vantages.

### **Elevate Research Program**

Associate Provost Jeanne Mekolichick presented on the Elevate Research Program to increase student access to and participation in undergraduate research, scholarship and creative inquiry (URSCI) in order to close equity gaps and raise overall retention, progression and graduation rates. Support faculty embedding URSCI and career readiness skills into first- and second-year courses. Diversify classroom leadership. Senior History major Demiah Smith discussed how being a student mentor in this program enhanced her experience at Radford University. She enjoyed helping other students.

### **Goals for 2022-2023**

#### **1. Successful SACS Reaffirmation**

Dr. Tim Channell, Assistant Provost for Budgets and Academic Operations, introduced Dr. Jessica Stowell, the new Director of Institutional Effectiveness. Both updated on the progress of our SACSCOC reaffirmation. The reaffirmation compliance focus report was sent on September 8, 2022. This report addressed 80 standards and sub-standards with narratives and supporting evidence and documents.

The timeline for the remainder of the reaffirmation cycle:

November 1-4, 2022	Offsite Review
February 2023	Submit reply to focus report and final QEP proposal
March 27-30, 2023	Onsite Visit
August 2023	Submit Onsite Response Report
December 2023	SACSCOC Board of Trustees Review

2. **Faculty workload optimization**

Go from fixed 4-4 classroom instructional load to flexible assignments that best use faculty talents to support student recruitment, retention, and graduation. Faculty strengths and talents are not all in the classroom. Some are better teachers, other better at engaging students in other ways, such as field trips, involvement in research, creating and supporting internships, or developing new teaching modalities. Plans to pilot in spring 2023; full implementation in fall 2023. Dr. Jane Machin, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, presented an example of a reassigned time project to improve student success, the *Davis First-Year Experience*. Retention of all students is a strategic priority and is especially important for first-time students. New freshmen retention has been a challenge for the University and the Davis College of Business and Economics (DCOBE). When business students interact with their major faculty, retention improves. The Davis College First Year Faculty Committee. The committee will focus on Academic Belonging, intentional first year academic coordination and Community Belonging, intentionally building Davis College Highlander community. The goal is to increase fall-to-fall new freshman student retention in DCOBE from 66% to 71%.

3. **Increase Average Class Size**

Average size of lecture format classes at Radford University is 19.5. Increasing class size to 24 would increase in course section capacities, have fewer under-enrolled sections, and use less adjunct faculty.

4. **Increase in externally funded activities**

More faculty, students, and community members to be involved in externally funded activities. In FY22 our Principal Investigators or co-Principal Investigators submitted 54 proposals, of which 41 were funded. About 65 undergraduate and graduate students were paid on grants, and about 10 community members participated. In FY22 new proposals totaled \$33m; \$8m new awards were received. The goal is have these numbers increase.

**Faculty Senate Report**

Dr. Kurt Gingrich, Faculty Senate President discussed the achievements of the Faculty Senate in 2021-2022 and its goals for 2022-2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Fowlkes adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda D. Conner  
Executive Assistant to the Provost

End of Board of Visitors Materials

