

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

**STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**  
**2:30 P.M.**  
**FEBRUARY 10, 2022**  
**EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**MARTIN HALL, SECOND FLOOR, RADFORD, VA**

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Krisha Chachra, Chair  
Dr. Debra K. McMahon, Vice Chair  
Mr. Marquett Smith  
Ms. Grace Hurst, Non-voting Student Advisory Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Lisa Pompa  
Ms. Lisa Throckmorton

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Rhonda Bryant, Assistant Vice President for Student Success  
Mr. Craig Cornell, Vice President for Enrollment Management  
Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Executive Director of Governmental Relations  
Ms. Nancy Loosie, Associate Vice President for Campus Life

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Krisha Chachra, Chair, formally called the meeting to order 2:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room in Martin Hall.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Chachra asked for a motion to approve the February 10, 2022 meeting agenda for the Student Success Committee, as published. Dr. Deb McMahon 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 December 2, 2021 meeting of the Student Success Committee, as published. Mr. Smith so moved, Dr. McMahon seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS**

Student Government Association (SGA) President Grace Hurst presented an update on SGA's initiatives. SGA continues to increase their social media following to connect students to resources and programs on campus. SGA will hold a sexual assault awareness campaign

focusing on recovery after violence. To promote self-care, A Women in the Weight Room event will be held in March that will give female students the opportunity to work with a recreation and wellness staff member to learn proper lifting techniques and gym equipment use. Other SGA planned events include a community trash pick-up day, Unity Fest, T-shirt exchange, a flag football tournament, and mid-term giveaways to promote good study habits. As part of SGA's sustainability efforts, enough plastic bags have been collected to recycle in exchange for a second bench to be obtained for campus.

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Angie Mitchell and Associate Dean of Students Brian Lusk gave a presentation outlining the student wellness initiatives on campus. Radford University has joined the World Health Organization Mental Health International College Student (WMH-ICS) initiative. Students will be surveyed monthly to gather data on mental health needs of students. Staff and students are being trained on Trauma Informed Care.

Radford University Carilion (RUC) entered into a partnership with Carilion Clinic that allows students access to the four Carilion-owned wellness facilities. RUC has begun hosting Wellness Wednesday that includes yoga, healthy snacks and self-care tips.

Student Counseling Services has updated the intake/triage model to ensure a student gets seen within 24 hours. Counseling hours were also expanded until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Eight interns are doing clinical experiences to assist with case load. An Associate Director of Student Advocacy was also hired in the Dean of Students Office to case manage students that require support beyond traditional counseling. The group counseling sessions being offered allow students to connect and develop a sense of belonging. The groups offered focus on social anxiety, acceptance and depression. The Recovery Community has obtained a Coffee Bike. Student members of the recovery community pedal the bike around campus, greet students, offer free coffee and discuss recovery and self-care resources.

Associate Vice President for Student Life Tricia Smith presented the Student Affairs update to the Committee. Ms. Smith introduced two new staff members joining Student Affairs Leadership – Dr. Rhonda Bryant, Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Dr. Nicole Cronenwett, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Ms. Smith shared that the Center for Accessibility Services (CAS) continues to see more students seeking accommodations. Over 500 students had access plans (accommodations) for fall semester. CAS continues to collaborate with departments across campus to educate staff on services provided and ways they can assist. CAS offers skill building workshops for students focused on time management, organization and goal setting. CAS also provides a monthly newsletter to registered students and teaching faculty with tips and strategies.

For the first time in five years, the all-Greek GPA is higher than the non- Greek cumulative GPA. Chapters have reinstated study hours, are focusing on academic excellence and creating action plans for members that have a low GPA.

The new Esports Arena will be built in Cook Hall. Esports continues to be the largest student organization on campus. Intramural competitions restarted in fall semester and students are excited to have this opportunity return. Students have also increased participation in Personal Training.

The Bonnie Student Center Employment Program employees over 70 students in a variety of positions. Emphasis is placed on learning outcomes to ensure they gain critical skills that will serve them in future careers. This program is part of an intentional retention strategy.

Substance Abuse and Violence Education Support (SAVES) services will host several events for Sexual Assault Awareness month, including the Take Back the Night walk, enhance marketing and social media presence to raise awareness and Radford University Police Department will offer a self-defense course. SAVES is collaborating with University Relations to enhance marketing and social media presence related to awareness months throughout the year.

The Radford Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary has been reinstated. This organization recognizes the top 1% of on-campus student leaders.

Main Campus fall-to-spring retention rates show positive increases. The fall 2021 cohort was retained at 88.5% and new transfer students were retained at 90.3%. The RUC fall 2021 cohort was retained at 93.3% - this is an 8% increase from spring 2021.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Chachra adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

End of Board of Visitors Materials

