Radford University
Board of Visitors

Student Affairs and Athletics Committee
4:30 p.m.
March 21, 2024
Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 212, Roanoke, VA

DRAFT
Minutes

Committee Members Present
Mr. David Smith, Chair
Mr. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair
Dr. Jay Brown
Ms. Joann Craig
Mr. Tyler Lester
Mr. Troy Stallard (Non-Voting Student Advisory Member)

Board Members Present
Dr. Debra K. McMahon, Rector
Mr. Marquett Smith, Vice Rector
Mr. Robert A. Archer
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout
Ms. Betsy D. Beamer
Ms. Betty Jo Foster
Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert
Mr. George Mendiola Jr.
Mr. James C. Turk

Others Present
Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President
Dr. Dannette Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications
Dr. Robert Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Penny Helms White, Vice President for University Advancement
Ms. Karen Casteele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President
Ms. Susan Richardson, University Counsel

Call to Order
Mr. David Smith, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. at the Roanoke Higher Education Center in Roanoke, Virginia.

Approval of Agenda
Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2024 meeting agenda for the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee, as published. Mr. Tyler Lester so moved, Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the November 30, 2023 minutes. Ms. Joann Craig so moved, Dr. Jay Brown seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports
Ms. Abigail Ridpath and Ms. Gift Kwofie, Student Representatives to SCHEV, updated the committee on the focus of the SCHEV Student Advisory Council this year. The council meetings were held both virtually and in person to allow for more participation. The members were organized into three subcommittees: Mental Health, College Affordability and School Safety.

Ms. Lora Ellen Starr, Student Government Association President, provided an update on the programs and initiatives that the Executive Board, Senate and Cabinet staff members have planned and collaborated on this semester, including partnering with Athletics to increase student engagement at basketball tailgates/games and Talk About It Thursdays, when members offer golf cart rides to students in exchange for completing a brief survey. SGA members participated in Advocacy Day and enjoyed the opportunity to share their Radford stories while garnering support for the University from members of the legislature. Participants also enjoyed the many opportunities to network throughout the trip. Ms. Starr shared that elections are underway and new SGA officers would be announced soon.

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs, provided an update on the Division's Student Employment Initiative, a two-year goal to increase student retention, support academic success and foster career readiness. The NACE (or National Association of Colleges and Employers) competencies are used to gauge and build skill sets related to career readiness. Baseline data has now been established from spring and fall 2023 results.

Early data trends toward the goal being on track to achieve targets of demonstrating competency increases from pre- to post-assessment and the cumulative student employee GPA being .2 higher than the overall cumulative undergraduate GPA. The retention target is for student employees to be retained at a rate of 5% higher than the campus average. That target has been met for two semesters. Next steps include a focus on supervisor training and broadening the conversations with campus partners related to a model that can be implemented across campus.

Mr. Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics, presented the Athletics update to the committee. Student athletes earned a cumulative GPA of 3.49 for the fall semester. Junior volleyball player, Meredith Page, serves as the President of both the Radford University and Big South Student Advisory Committees and is a member of the NCAA National Student Advisory Committee. Meredith recently testified before Congress on the negative effects of considering student athletes as employees.

Winter sports saw impressive finishes as the Women's Indoor Track and Field and Women's Basketball teams finished 3rd in the Big South regular season. Women's Basketball was the Big South Championship runner-up.

Mr. Lineburg also gave an update on external revenue secured. There has been a 12% increase thus far in FY24.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jenni Webb
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs

End of Board of Visitors Materials