

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES
BOARD OF VISITORS**

January 27, 2009, 3:00 – 4:15 pm

APPROVED

Members Present:

Mr. Randal J. Kirk, Chair
Mr. Thomas E. Fraim Jr., Rector
Mr. Walter Rugaber
Dr. Cora Salzberg (by conference call)
Dr. Wayne Saubert, Faculty Representative, non-voting

Others Present:

Dr. Wil Stanton	Dr. Orion Rogers
Dr. Steve Lerch	Dr. Joe Scartelli
Dr. Rick Slavings	Dr. Pat Shoemaker
Dr. Angela Stanton	Dr. Debra Templeton
Dr. Brian Conniff	Mr. Mike Hemphill
Dr. Faye Gilbert	Mr. Tim Thornton
Dr. Dennis Grady	Ms. Lisa Ridpath
Mr. Dave Hayes	Dr. Kay Jordan
Dr. Raymond Linville	Dr. Steve Owen
	Dr. Joe Wirgau

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Randal J. Kirk, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m, Tuesday, January 27, 2009 in the Board Room in Martin Hall at Radford University.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Randal J. Kirk, Chair called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Walter Rugaber made the motion and Mr. Thomas Fraim seconded. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-November 12, 2008

Mr. Randal J. Kirk, Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting. Mr. Thomas Fraim made the motion and Mr. Walter Rugaber seconded. The motion carried.

**REPORT FROM THE FACULTY
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOV**

Dr. Wayne Saubert

- Dr. Saubert provided brief remarks as did Dr. Steve Owen, President of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Saubert voiced faculty concern regarding the budget reversion and changes in Academic Affairs.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Dr. Wil Stanton

Dr. Stanton began his report by giving a brief overview of how Academic Affairs had been addressing their initial \$4.85 million reversion target. While being prompted by budget reversion, Dr. Stanton said that their responsibilities were much greater than that; it was more important to prepare the University for the future than trying to preserve the past.

Dr. Stanton stated that Academic Affairs would find innovative ways to meet the educational needs of more students, do this at a lower cost, AND maintain or enhance the quality of the educational experience while we do so. This is exactly what they need to do!

Dr. Stanton said that two strategies have been developed to accomplish this. One strategy obviously is focused on the budget reversion while the second strategy is focused on the future.

Dr. Stanton said that Academic Affairs could and would be able to meet their budget reversion target, so his remarks focused mostly on preparing for the future.

- Program Review - To strategically determine a future-focused portfolio of offerings and support services, Dr. Stanton stated that a strong and effective program review process would be necessary. He assured us that program review was being taken extremely seriously. While this review could result in some programs actually receiving more support as they are central to the University's future, other programs, activities, and services not central to the University's academic mission, not aligned with 7-17, or weak on performance metrics will be critically assessed for continuance, significant reduction in scope, or elimination.
- Administration Restructuring Initiatives - In addition to rigorous program review, Dr. Stanton discussed several restructuring initiatives already underway to increase efficiencies and focus activities toward student learning. Some of the ones discussed were:
 - Transferring the operation of Financial Aid to Academic Affairs.
 - Reorganizing the Center for Experiential Learning and Career Services and immediately begin to reshape Career Services to better meet the academic advising and career planning needs of our students.
 - Transferring New Student Programs from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs.
 - Transferring the Learning Assistance and Resource Center from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs.

There are several other administrative realignments taking place, but this provides a glimpse of the substantive changes being made.

- Academic Assessment - In addition to these administrative reorganizations and realignments, Dr. Stanton described how the rigor of assessment and accountability will be increased for all activities within Academic Affairs. Among the activities discussed were:
 - Assessment of entering students' academic abilities will begin this spring with a rigorous New Student Testing Program.
 - Assessment of the New Core Curriculum will begin Fall 09 with every core curriculum course being assessed each semester to determine the extent to which students are meeting the learning outcomes.
 - Assessment of Across the Curriculum Programs in written and oral communication, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and information technology/literacy will begin during the next academic year.

All of these are essential to academic quality assurance and to strengthen the overall operations of Academic Affairs. The members of the Academic Affairs Committee commend the Provost on these assessment efforts and ask that he keep the Board regularly apprised of assessment results.

- Academic Program Changes being Recommended - Dr. Stanton then discussed transformations within and across academic units.
 - Merging Biology and Chemistry and begin exploring a new degree program Biochemistry.
 - Creating a School of Environmental and Physical Science by bringing together the Forensic Science Institute, Geology, Physics, and Geography.
 - Creating a School of Theater and Dance which would craft an even stronger performance-based program, increasing their attractiveness to new students, and increasing the possibility for accreditation.
 - Transferring the department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism from the Waldron College of Health and Human Services to the College of Education and Human Development.
 - Transferring Foods and Nutrition from the School of Nursing in the Waldron College of Health and Human Services to the Department of Exercise, Sports and Health Education in the College of Education and Human Development.
 - Changing the name of the Waldron College of Health and Human Services to the Waldron College of Health Sciences to better reflect the emerging and planned foci of the College.

The members of the Academic Affairs Committee commend the Provost for the rigorous program review process being undertaken and encourage him to continue to make substantive operational and programmatic changes as necessary to position Radford for the future.

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation for Approval

1. That the BOV approve the merging of Chemistry and Biology into a single department and the consideration and assessment of a new degree program in biochemistry.
2. That the BOV approve the creation of the School of Environmental and Physical Science.
3. That the BOV approve the combining of the Forensic Science Institute into the School of Environmental and Physical Science.
4. That the BOV approve the combining of Physical Anthropology into the School of Environmental and Physical Science.
5. That the BOV approve the merging of Physics, Geology, and Geography into the School of Environmental and Physical Science.
6. That the BOV approve the creation of a School of Theater and Dance and merge the two existing departments, Theater and Dance, into the new school.
7. That the BOV approve the transfer of Parks & Tourism from the Waldron College of Health and Human Services to the College of Education and Human Development.

8. That the BOV approve the transfer of Foods and Nutrition from the School of Nursing in the Waldron College of Health and Human Services to the Department of Exercise, Sports and Health Education in the College of Education and Human Development.

Mr. Randal J. Kirk, Chair called for a motion to approve the above recommendations. Mr. Walter Rugaber made the motion and Mr. Thomas Fraim seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Vickie S. Taylor, Executive Assistant to the Provost