

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BOARD OF VISITORS**
September 2, 2008 2:00 – 3:50 pm
MINUTES

APPROVED

Committee Members present:

Ms. Nancy Artis, Chair
Mr. Stephen A. Musselwhite

Other Board Members present:

Mr. Walter Rugaber
Ms. Juliann Abercrombie, Student Representative

Others Present:

President Penelope W. Kyle
Dr. Wilbur Stanton, Provost
Dr. Norleen Pomerantz, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Steve Lerch, Vice Provost
Dr. Rick Slavings, Vice Provost
Dr. Steve Owen, Faculty Senate President
Dr. Brian Conniff, Dean, CHBS
Dr. Faye Gilbert, Dean, COBE
Dr. Dennis Grady, Dean, CGPS
Dr. Raymond Linville, Dean, CHHS
Dr. J. Orion Rogers, Dean, CSAT
Dr. Joe Scartelli, Dean, CVPA
Dr. Pat Shoemaker, Dean, CEHD
Mr. Dave Hayes, University Librarian
Dr. James Lollar
Dr. Kay Jordan
Dr. Susan Van Patten
Dr. Debra Templeton, Assistant Vice Provost
Ms. Ann Hillenbrand-Brown
Mr. Tim Thornton, Reporter for *The Roanoke Times*

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Nancy Artis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m, Tuesday, September 2, 2008 in the Board Room in Martin Hall

Ms. Nancy Artis called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Stephen A. Musselwhite made the motion and Mr. Walter Rugaber seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Nancy Artis called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2008 meeting. Mr. Stephen A. Musselwhite made the motion and Mr. Walter Rugaber seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Introductions

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*

Dr. Stanton opened with a short message about the growing energy and excitement across our beautiful campus. "At Convocation, President Kyle repeatedly stated that Radford University is on the move!! There is a new sense of school pride; e.g. all new freshmen received "Dread the Red" shirts and all new parents were encouraged to buy and wear RU colors and RU logos. The energy and excitement can also be seen in all areas around campus. Almost everywhere you look you see new construction or renovation projects. While not very pretty, chain link fences, backhoes, and construction vehicles are but a few of the many signs of the positive progress being made at the University under the dynamic leadership of President Kyle".

Dr. Stanton introduced the following in attendance:

- Dr. Steve Owen, President of the Faculty Senate
- Dr. Kay Jordan, Vice President of the Faculty Senate and AAUP Representative
- Dr. Susan Van Patten, Chair of the General Education Curricular Advisory Committee (GECAC)
- Dr. Jim Lollar, Immediate Past President of the Faculty Senate

Four new Deans to the Academic Affairs Leadership Team:

Dr. Brian Conniff is the founding dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. Dean Conniff comes to RU from the University of Dayton, where he was been Professor of English and, for the past eight years, Chair of the Department of English.

Dr. Faye Gilbert, dean of the College of Business and Economics, was previously dean of the J. Whitney Bunting School of Business at Georgia College & State University where she was instrumental in achieving reaffirmation of accreditation by the AACSB in 2007. This experience will be invaluable as she leads RU's AACSB reaffirmation this year.

Dr. Dennis Grady joined us in June as dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. Prior to joining RU, Dean Grady worked at Appalachian State University, where he served as director of ASU's Energy Center at the Cratis D. Williams Graduate School and chair of the Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice.

Dr. Orion Rogers is the founding dean of the College of Science and Technology. Orion comes to Radford from Radford. Dean Rogers began his RU career in 1994 as an assistant professor. Since then, he was promoted to associate professor, full professor, chair of the biology department and, most recently, interim associate dean of the College of Science and Technology.

In addition Orion has previously served as the Director of the Honors Academy.

We have also added several new external chairs or school directors and other academic leaders this year.

Dr. Lennie Scott-Webber has been named chair of the Department of Interior Design and Fashion.

Dr. Elise Fullmer is director of the School of Social Work.

Dr. Lynn Zoch is the founding director of the School of Communication.

Dr. Douglas Mitchell is director of the newly-established Master of Occupational Therapy program.

Dr. Anne Pascucci, our new Director of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management.

Captain Carlos Rockshead to the University as the person directly responsible for our ROTC program.

New faculty

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*

Dr. Stanton reported we are fortunate to welcome 33 new teaching and research faculty members to our family of scholars. These faculty join us from 15 states and three countries. They have earned degrees from prestigious institutions across the country and around the world.

Update on Search for Vice Provost for Enrollment Planning and Management

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*

Dr. Steve Lerch, *Vice Provost*

The Vice Provost for Enrollment Planning and Management will have oversight for Admissions, the Registrar's Office and Financial Aid. The Vice Provost will position these offices to work with Deans, Directors/Chairs and others as the University begins to engage in more strategic thinking about recruitment and retention. Lansing and Associates, a Search Firm that specializes in searches for admissions and enrollment administrators, submitted the successful bid to work with RU in filling this position. Lansing and Associates has developed an aggressive timetable designed to identify the successful candidate anticipating an early spring semester hire.

Office of Admissions Leadership

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*

Dr. Stanton reported the following three resignations in the Admissions Office:

- Dave Kraus, Director
- Amy Jarich, Associate Director
- Rebekah LaPlante, Senior Assistant Director

While the loss of these three excellent senior leaders is unfortunate and will create some challenges, the new class for 2008 is already in place and recruiting for

2009 will begin next week as RU's counselors participate in Open Houses. Until a new Vice Provost and Director are appointed, Drs. Stanton and Slavings will

assist with Admissions databases and publications, Dr. Lerch will take on some of the travel formerly the responsibility of Mr. Kraus, and Mr. Mike Dunn, Director of New Student Programs, will assume responsibility for management of the day-to-day operations of the Admissions Office. Mr. Dunn and Dr. Lerch will share responsibility for supervision of the Admissions staff.

Enrollments and Facilities

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*
Dr. Rick Slavings, *Vice Provost*
Dr. Debra Templeton, *Asst. Vice Provost*

Enrollments: RU received over 8,000 new freshmen applications for fall 2008, and over 8,800 applications from new students, including freshmen and transfer students. This is the largest applicant pool in the history of the institution. As a result, RU will likely enroll approximately 1900 new freshmen, which could be the largest entering class in two decades. Total enrollment will probably exceed 9,200 this fall.

Facilities: Young Hall is undergoing renovation, and that has resulted in 17 classrooms being off-line this year. As a result, we have three modular classroom buildings, with two classrooms each to accommodate the enrollment increases and classes that would otherwise be in Young. Academic Affairs worked with Facilities to insure that the classrooms are technology-rich and provide excellent instructional resources. Early reports are that faculty like the new temporary facilities, with their new desks, new equipment, excellent climate control.

Assessment and Testing

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*
Dr. Rick Slavings, *Vice Provost*

In accordance with goals outlined in 7-17, RU is significantly increasing its focus on student assessment, particularly in the area of new freshman assessment and pre-post assessment of learning outcomes. The state is requiring more pre-post assessments as well. We have learned that some students don't do as well as we would like in freshman classes, in part because they may be enrolling in classes for which they are not prepared. We will be working with a consultant, Worth Pickering from ODU, who is an expert in new student assessment, as we develop processes for testing students before their initial class registration to determine the appropriate courses based on their backgrounds and abilities. We will also engage in discussions with New River Community College so that we can partner with that institution in the instruction of RU students who require additional preparatory courses. We will continue to examine best practices in new student assessment and design a program to implement this coming summer. We want every one of our students to be successful, and this new process will help us get there.

UPDATES

Comprehensive update of progress being made on Core Curriculum

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*
Dr. Steve Lerch, *Vice Provost*

Last year, the Board gave Academic Affairs the charge to improve the quality of the freshmen writing courses, ENGL 101 and 102 for 2008-2009. In March, Dr. Laurie Cubbison, Associate Professor of English, was appointed as RU's first Director of writing. During the summer, Dr. Cubbison reviewed all ENGL 101 and 102 syllabi, led a workshop for all course instructors, developed a Blackboard/WebCT site providing resources for faculty, and established common expectations for the quantity, style, and types of writing expected in the courses.

Tremendous progress was made this summer in the development of the new Core Curriculum. Dozens of faculty invested hundreds of hours in committee work to develop learning outcomes, conceptualize University Core A, and begin to cull the list of hundreds of courses students can currently use to meet general education requirements. The work of these committees will be presented to the Faculty Senate for discussion and debate at its first meeting on September 11.

The most interesting part of the Core Curriculum will undoubtedly be University Core A, which—as currently conceptualized—will involve four sequenced courses in which students will gain competency in written and oral communication, information and technology literacy, and critical thinking. All RU students will take these courses, each of which will focus upon each of the competencies in an increasingly sophisticated way. After completion of Core A, students will be well prepared to handle work in their major fields of study.

The remainder of the Core Curriculum will afford students choices from significantly truncated lists of courses as they meet learning outcomes in math, science, social science, fine arts, humanities, and global and U.S. perspectives.

Ms. Artis formally recognized faculty and staff for the dedicated work that has been done over the past year and summer. She offered a special “thank you” to Dr. Susan Van Patten for her leadership of GECAC, and to Ms. Candice Benjes-Small for her leadership of the Core A subcommittee.

Separations (WTO)

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*

Dr. Stanton reported on the successful implementation of the Workforce Transition Option (WTO). More than 100 faculty were eligible to participate in the WTO, 28 applied, and a total of 20 senior colleagues have elected and been approved to retire, effective at the end of the fall semester. While the WTO will provide some flexibility, Dr. Stanton recognized these 20 faculty members as individuals providing decades of experience, wisdom and leadership to our university. These faculty represent more than 548 years of combined service.

Academic-related Capital Projects

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*

Earlier this spring, the Virginia General Assembly approved a bond package that included \$34.2 million for a new building for the College of Business and Economics. We will raise \$10 million in private funds in support of this project for a total of \$44.2 million dedicated to the new home for COBE. The new College of

Business building will have many amenities including a stock market trading room and breakout rooms to support the many case analyses so typical of a business education. Dean Gilbert is working with a committee of COBE faculty in visiting other new college of business buildings in the area so that RU can view best practices in design.

Radford is also the recipient of \$1.5 million in general fund monies to pay for the planning component of a new \$37 million building for the College of Science and Technology. The new College of Science and Technology building will also have many amenities including state-of-the art laboratory classrooms as well as other labs dedicated to faculty-student collaborations.

The renovation of our flagship classroom building, Young Hall, is ongoing. Young is scheduled to reopen in fall 2009, and it will feature many innovations that will make it future-proofed. It will be technology rich and will have the ability to easily adapt to students' learning styles and faculty's teaching styles.

In addition, major renovations are underway at the Dedmon Center, Heth Hall, and Davis Hall.

The Covington Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, which will open this fall, will offer an extraordinary venue for performances, rehearsals, and recitals. As with Young Hall, the Covington Center will be rich with technology to provide the absolute highest quality performances.

New academic programs

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*
College Deans

A number of new graduate programs are in various stages of development:

Psy.D. – This is the inaugural year for the Doctorate in Psychology (PsyD) program with students on campus and enrolled in classes.

MOT program – The Founding Chair and Director of Clinical Education of the Master's of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program have been hired and are hard at work in developing the curriculum.

DPT – The Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program is progressing. There is tremendous demand for DPT personnel nationwide, which makes recruitment of faculty very challenging. Dr. Linville reported an aggressive recruitment timetable so that the development of the program will remain on schedule.

DNP – A proposal to implement the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) has been submitted to SCHEV.

Institutional Performance Standards (IPS)

Dr. Debra Templeton, *Asst. Vice Provost*

Dr. Debra Templeton reported on the results of RU's first certification process regarding the SCHEV Institutional Performance Standards (IPS). It was reported that RU was the only senior institution in the Commonwealth to meet all of its targets this year. Of particular note were the fact the RU was second only to Virginia Tech in the number of degrees produced per FTE faculty member, and that survey results regarding our initiatives with K-12 partners were outstanding. Work is underway on preparing for the next certification in two years, and we are confident that RU will again set the standard by meeting all of its performance targets.

OTHER

Dr. Wil Stanton, *Provost*

Student Collaboration:

As an example of our faculty/student collaboration, seven of our students joined Cliff Boyd, Donna Boyd and Rhett Herman last month on a research trip to the Solomon Islands. This trip was a part of Radford University's Forensic Science Institute field school in archaeology and geophysical survey and was an attempt to locate the remains of members of a US Marine Patrol killed during the August 1942 Battle for Guadalcanal. The students worked with archeological techniques and geophysical equipment to survey the ground where the patrol is suspected to be buried in mass graves. While the group did not locate the remains on this trip, the field has been narrowed and our students have experienced an unforgettable learning experience that will remain a part of them throughout their lives. The Guadalcanal project is an excellent example of RU's commitment to student and faculty collaborative research -- a commitment that sets us apart from other colleges and universities with whom we compete for faculty and students.

Another exemplary member of the faculty in working with students is Dr. Mark Cline, Assistant Professor of Biology and 2008 recipient of the RU Foundation Award for Distinguished Creative Scholarship. Dr. Cline has co-authored 15 refereed journal articles with RU undergraduate students since the beginning of 2007.

One more example illustrating the excellence of undergraduate research at RU occurred at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research held earlier this year at Salisbury University in Maryland. Of the 307 colleges and universities presenting at this year's conference, only 4 schools had more students participating than RU. In addition to the students who presented papers at regional and national meetings, this past year 230 students made over 150 presentations at our on-campus Student Engagement Forum.

Foreign Language:

RU continues to provide opportunities for our student to learn foreign languages not often taught in high school. We have long offered classes in Mandarin Chinese, and this academic year, because we were able to obtain the services of a graduate instructor through the Fulbright Program, we will be offering Arabic for the first time.

Ms. Artis concluded the meeting by noting that “based on all the progress we have heard about today—excellent new deans, new programs, new capital projects, and the new Core Curriculum—it is obvious that RU is doing exactly what is stated in 7-17: 'Forging a Bold New Future.'”

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:50p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Vickie S. Taylor
Administrative Assistant
Academic Affairs Committee