

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CARILION ROANOKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
1906 BELLEVIEW AVE.
ROANOKE, VA. 24033
FIRST FLOOR ADMIN. SUITE
OCTOBER 19, 2007
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Members Present: Nancy Artis (Chair), Nancy Agee, Stephen A. Musselwhite, James Lollar (non-voting Faculty rep)

Other BOV members: Nelson C. Harris, Regis McKoy (non-voting Student rep)

University Personnel: Wil Stanton, Isaac Van Patten, Joe Scartelli, Judy Niehaus, Rick Slavings, Dave Hayes

1. Nancy Artis, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. There being no secretary for the committee, Radford personnel were asked to present their personal meeting notes to the Provost so minutes could be drawn up.
2. The Chair listed the following future meetings for the Committee with the BOV meeting the following day:
 - November 1
 - January 29 in Richmond
 - April 23
 - September 3
 - November 12
3. Minutes of August 22, 2007 meeting were approved.
4. The Chair asked that the Radford University Vision Statement be discussed and clarified for the benefit of the Committee. The definition of the “top 50” masters degree granting institutions in the nation was clarified. The list of the top 50 public masters institutions comes from the U.S. News and World Report annual listings. There are 660 in total, 347 in the masters large which is the category Radford is in. Radford now ranks as 38th in the South overall, and 15th among public Masters Universities in the South. The rankings are based on selectivity, peer assessment, faculty resources, alumni giving, and endowment among other things. (1) Rick Slavings will send the criterion and model from the U.S. News and World Report to the Committee. (2) Wil Stanton will send the Carnegie classification information to the committee. (3) A list of the current top 50 Masters Universities in the nation will also be provided to the Committee.
5. Dr. Stanton reported on recent meetings with SCHEV on the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. SCHEV has told us we can move the program into the external review phase but only in the context of other programs. The review will take place soon, and RU reports back to SCHEV January 31. Background information on the proposals submitted as well as information on SCHEV Council members will be provided to the committee for review prior to the Nov. 1 meeting.

6. Information was requested on the Faculty Salary Equity Study and the Faculty Workload Study. Dr. Stanton reported that the last salary equity study was done in 2002-2003. Dr. Slavings is chairing the current study. Later today, the committee is meeting to finalize its recommendations to the Provost. Dr. Slavings described the methodology used to identify persons whose salaries appeared to be egregiously inverted or compressed. The committee at the Nov. 1 meeting schedules follow-up.
7. The Workload Study will include instructional time and credit hours generated. Radford can justify 414 full-time faculty positions based on current credit-hour production. Radford now has 398 full-time faculty. Dr. Stanton describe the process of determining faculty workload and stated that all information is being "placed on the table" for everyone to see. Dr. Stanton said it would take time to balance the resource areas, but that work must be undertaken.
8. The Six-Year Plan for RU was submitted to SCHEV on October 1. The Academic Affairs committee considered and approved the plan for recommendation to the Board at the BOV meeting, Nov. 2.
9. The Strategic Plan, *RU 7-17*, was also discussed. Of particular interest were the sections on retention, the core curriculum, and enrollment management. The Committee needs a reporting structure so they know what is being done on the plan. An Implementation Committee is working on developing an operational plan that will included Directives, Goals, Strategies, Quantifiable Objectives, Actions to be Taken, Individuals Responsible, Resources Needed and Time to Completion. As the Implementation Committee completes it work, the resulting operational plan will be presented to the committee for recommendation of approval by the BOV.
10. Dr. Stanton briefly discussed the administrative changes taking place in Academic Affairs, e.g., there will be a Vice Provost for Enrollment Planning and Management hired soon. A new organization chart will be provided to the committee at the Nov. 1 meeting so there is a complete understanding of the Academic Affairs operations of the university.
11. Isaac Van Patten gave a report on the Core Curriculum. This is a sensitive issue with the faculty since they are charged with oversight of this program. The committee had a high response rate to its survey on what should be included in a core curriculum, and there was generally consensus about the important components. Dr. Van Patten discussed the content of the proposed 24-hour core curriculum and the parameters suggested for the 18-hour college-specific curriculum. This plan included a number of new interdisciplinary courses. The consensus of the Committee was that the creative plan that included many new courses would be preferable to an alternate plan based on currently available courses. Further discussions of a proposed timeline for complete conceptualization of the curriculum and the implementation will take place at the next meeting on Nov. 1.

Specific components of the core curriculum proposal were discussed including a stronger emphasis on critical thinking and quantitative reasoning; more life skills in the UNIV 100; geopolitics, information literacy, ethics and values, and broadening student understanding from western cultures and civilizations to world cultures and civilizations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am with Committee members going to the Shenandoah Club for a joint meeting with the Business Affairs Committee.

Respectfully submitted

Carlene Alvis

Secretary, RU Board of Visitors