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Radford University

College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

CHBS Advisory Board

Fall 2023 Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2023, 3 p.m.

1. **Call to Order for Fall Board Meeting**

Board Chair Scott Light called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

VP Cynthia Price took minutes and called the roll.

Present in person or remotely were (21): Mike Ashley, Jim Bove, Jake Crocker, Pattie DeLoatche, Kay Dunkley, Jane Elizabeth, Will Iandolo, Chris King, Scott Light, Zach McCoy, Jonna McGraw, Jim McGuire, Russell Pompa, Cynthia Price, Ed Reams, Paula Squires, Holly Stein, Lisa Throckmorton, Dante Washington, Karen Wheeler, Denise White

Apologies (8): Sherrie Austin, Robert Barrett, James Bienlien, Katelyn Dobbins, Jeffrey MacKinnon, John Rainbolt, John Shehan, Ivan Thirion

1. **Board Renewal**

The Board Membership Committee moved that the following members be renewed for another three-year appointment, ending June 30, 2026:

* Jake Crocker
* Will Iandolo
* Russell Pompa

Motion by Ed Reams, seconded by Zach McCoy. Motion carried.

1. **Approval of Spring 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Board Chair Scott Light made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Spring 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

1. **University Reports**

Update on the College (Dr. Matthew J. Smith, Dean)

Dean Smith shared about how the University and College are paying **tribute to colleagues** who passed away during the fall. They include:

* Dr. Robert Williams was a Professor of English and served as Chair of both the Department of English and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. A member of the RU faculty since 1999, Robert also held a master’s degree from Radford. He was a champion of writing instruction and most recently worked to establish a Writing Lab course to the curriculum.
* Dr. Kevin “West” Bowers was an Associate Professor of Communication and previously served as the Media Studies Coordinator in the School of Communication. A member of the RU faculty since 2011, West was deeply committed to student media productions, having served as faculty advisor to “Radford on Camera” and mentor to several students in independent projects.
* Matthew Scott Brunner was a registrar and political science instructor at Radford University.

Dean Smith provided an update on the **Wicked initiative**. Students recently returned from Lisbon, Portugal, where they participated in the 10th annual Responsible Management and Education conference. He described it as a “rare opportunity.” The next festival is Nov. 9 with more than 500 RU students participating. The Kyle Hall ballroom no longer holds the festival; instead the entire building will be dedicated to the Festival.

The previous academic year, **STARS** provided more than $36,000 in support, including 49 students who traveled to conferences. Lane Chrepta, a history major, will be attending the 42nd Annual International Conference of the Haskins Society.

Dr. Kim Gainer, associate dean, spoke about the **Center for Archive and Digital History**, which is a service to both families and students. The center digitizes documents, transcribes materials, researches, and creates final projects. The course is taught by Dr. Sharon Roger Hepburn. Students get the experience of handling the documents, digitizing, and developing research skills. They learn how to create digital history projects. Dr. Ann Elliott, a retired psychology professor, donated nine boxes of her father’s letters and documents. He had served in WWII.

Carolyn Clayton, director of annual giving, spoke about the **Highlander 10 Challenge**, which is 1 Day, 9 Hours, 10 Minutes in honor of Radford’s founding in 1910. The campaign kicks off Nov. 28 at 8 a.m. The campaign has 18 projects, including STARS.

**Action Items**

* Tell five friends and ask them to donate
* Share and like on the CHBS Facebook page (Kerrie Hayes does a terrific job managing the page. She also selected the swag.)

Several board members offered a $500 challenge gift, including Scott Light, Jim McGuire, Russell Pompa, Cynthia Price, Ed Reams, and Denise White.

**Homecoming** events of note:

* On Saturday, October 21, at noon., the **Law Society** will sponsor a speaker colloquium for students, alumni, and legal professionals in the fifth floor Hemphill Hall Christopher S. Huther Courtroom. Members of the Advisory Board are welcomed to attend. A light reception follows.

* On Saturday, October 21, 2-5 p.m., the CHBS Advisory Board will sponsor a greeting tent within the **Alumni Village** held on Moffett Lawn. Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend and network with our students as well as with fellow alumni.

* On Saturday, October 21, 7:30-8:30 p.m. the Dean’s Office welcomes you to the **CHBS Awards Ceremony** in Hemphill Hall’s third floor, campus-side atrium. We will be honoring Marty Smith ’98 with the CHBS Distinguished Alumnus Award and recognizing Drew Robinson ’01 and Nicole Robinson ’02 for the latest endowed scholarship, which will be acknowledged with a plaque on the Endowment Fund Wall. A dessert reception will follow.
* On Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m. the **Student Government Association Room** will be named. Board member Pattie DeLoatche will attend the event is in the “Bonnie” Hurlburt Center, Room 208-209.

**Update on Advancement (Dr. Carter Turner, Senior Director, Advancement)**

The university is in the final phase of the Together Campaign. A report will be released in 2024. The $100-million campaign is the largest in the school’s history.

The names of Drew (’01) and Nicole (’02) Robinson will be added to the wall for their generous scholarship support.

A scholarship will be created in memory and honor of Wes Bowers by his parents.

1. **Committee Reports**

*Awards Committee (Mike Ashley, Chair)*

Mike Ashley reported the largest pool ever, in part because names were pulled from the alumni office. Carter Turner assisted. This year’s recipient is Marty Smith. Eleven names were on the list, which continues to skew toward communications. The nomination process doesn’t seem effective, and the committee will review ways to improve it.

*Board Membership Committee (Scott Light)*

Scott Light provided information on two nominees to serve on the advisory board: Amy Davis and Reggie Gilmore. Pattie DeLoatche spoke in favor of Ms. Davis, and Dante Washington spoke in favor of Mr. Gilmore. Motions made and approved to their memberships.

Amy Davis: Paula Squires motion, Will Iandolo seconded

Reggie Gilmore: Mike Ashley motion, Ed Reams, seconded

*Fundraising (Jeff MacKinnon, Chair)*

No Report

*Career Preparation (Russell Pompa, Chair)*

Russell Pompa highlighted the pairing of board members with faculty. Meets are held in-class or virtually with students. Individuals can participate as a judge for the Wicked Festival and a student advisory panel discussed career paths. During homecoming the advisory board will have a presence at the Alumni Village with at least five board members participating.

*Prelaw*

The chair position is vacant, and there was no report.

1. **Old Business**

Board Chair Scott Light continued the conversation about committee structures, including ensuring they align with the Dean’s needs and creating a document to better define the responsibilities of each committee.

**Action Items**

Dean Smith will meet with the executive committee and bring a proposal to the January meeting.

Paula Squires noted she will need more nominations if the goal is to increase board membership to 50.

1. **New Business**

Scott Light led a discussion about mentoring opportunities and how to link students with board members. The president is interested in doing something similar.

**Action item**

Dean Smith offered to share the board’s interest in mentorship with the president and to learn more about the president’s vision. The board would be willing to be a beta test.

The School of Communications curriculum will be revisited during the next meeting. Pattie DeLoatche suggested asking the Dean of Admissions to speak with CHBS.

1. **Election of Officers**

Cynthia Price was elected Chair. (Motion: Paula Squires, Second: Zach McCoy)

John Shehan was elected Vice Chair. (Motion: Zach McCoy, Second: Will Iandolo)

Lisa Throckmorton was elected secretary. (Motion: Zach McCoy, Second: Cynthia Price)

Scott Light thanked everyone for their commitment. He noted the board has no fiduciary responsibility, and he encouraged everyone to bring their passion, points, and vision to the board. He wants to see more diverse voices and a continued focus on time, treasure, and talent.

Dean Smith expressed his gratitude to Mr. Light for his service and the energy he gives to the board and the institution.

**Adjournment:** Board Chair Scott Light made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 pm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.