1. PURPOSE

The Funds Handling Policy for Radford University outlines the University’s funds handling requirements, provides a structured framework for the collection and deposit of funds, and minimizes risk by ensuring that deposits are made timely and in accordance with state regulations.

2. APPLICABILITY

The Funds Handling Policy applies to all departments, offices, organizations, and persons handling funds and/or accepting payments in any form on behalf of the University at all campuses and locations at which University business is conducted.

3. AUTHORITY

University policies fall within a greater hierarchy of laws, statutes and regulations. The Board of Visitors has been authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia to govern Radford University. (See Code of Virginia § 23-155.7; 23-9.2:3.)

The Board of Visitors, in the Board Bylaws, has delegated much of the authority to manage the University to the President, who serves as the agent of the Board and as the Chief Executive Officer of the University. As a part of that management, the President, in conjunction with the President’s Cabinet, will direct the development and implementation of University policies and procedures.

4. DEFINITIONS

**Bait money**: Monetary bills for which serial numbers have been recorded to aid in tracking thieves.

**Banner System**: A comprehensive and integrated administrative information system that contains student, financial aid, accounts receivable, finance, and human resources information and transactional data.

**Collection point**: An approved site where funds are accepted on behalf of the University.

**Division Head**: President, Provost, or applicable Vice President.

**FOAP/Detail Code**: FOAP Code refers to designated coding for a transaction in the Banner Finance System consisting of the appropriate fund, organization, account, and program from the chart of accounts. Detail Code refers to designated coding in Banner Accounts Receivable that is used in lieu of having to enter the full FOAP Code. Each Detail Code is linked to appropriate FOAP Codes via Banner Accounts Receivable tables.
Funds: As used in this policy, funds are all forms of payment to include currency, coin, checks, or payment card transactions (e.g. credit cards).

5. POLICY

As a public institution of higher education of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the University will properly account for, report, and manage deposits of funds received in the manner prescribed by the State Treasurer and in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

6. PROCEDURES

See Corresponding PROCEDURE # FA-PR-1202
(Include Appendices with Procedure)

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

See Corresponding PROCEDURE # FA-PR-1202

8. INTERPRETATION

The authority to interpret this policy rests with the President of the University and is generally delegated to the Chief Financial Officer & Vice President for Finance and Administration.

9. EXCLUSIONS

Exceptions and exclusions to this policy must be approved by the Chief Financial Officer & Vice President for Finance and Administration.

10. REFERENCES

Code of Virginia § 2.2-1802, “Payment of state funds into state treasury; deposits in state depositories; credit of fund not paid into general fund; exceptions as to endowments and gifts to institutions; appropriations by federal government.”


11. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS

The President of the University and the President’s Cabinet have approval authority over this policy and all subsequent revisions.

In July 2012, the Funds Handling Policy and related procedure were reformatted into the new University-wide standard policy and procedure templates with appropriate revisions. The revised policy was reviewed and approved by the President’s Cabinet and the revised policy was signed by the President on July 12, 2012.

In November 2015, the Funds Handling Policy and related procedure were reviewed by the oversight department. Minor editorial changes were made, but no substantive changes were made that would affect the content or intent of the policy.

For information, contact the Office of Policy Compliance – 540-831-5794
1. **BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION**

   The *Funds Handling Policy* for Radford University outlines the University’s funds handling requirements, provides a structured framework for the collection and deposit of funds, and minimizes risk by ensuring that deposits are made timely and in accordance with state regulations.

2. **APPLICABILITY**

   The *Funds Handling Policy* applies to all departments, offices, organizations, and persons handling funds and/or accepting payments in any form on behalf of the University at all campuses and locations at which University business is conducted.

3. **PROCEDURE**

   A. **Approvals**

      1. **Fees:** In accordance with the Radford University *Fee Policy*, all departments assessing fees to any groups and/or persons MUST obtain prior written approval from the Chief Financial Officer & Vice President for Finance and Administration (CFO/VPFA) before the fee may be assessed or a current fee is modified or waived. For new fees, the deposit accounting information (i.e. FOAP/Detail Code) must be obtained from the University Controller.

      2. **Banking arrangements:** All University banking arrangements are established by the University Controller. Bank accounts may NOT be established at the departmental level in Radford University’s name or federal identification number. Additionally, establishing bank accounts in the name of any person or group for the conduct of University business is **strictly prohibited**.

   B. **Recording Funds Collected**

      1. **Method/Timing:** All funds collected, regardless of type, must be properly recorded and documented through an internal tracking method as they are received. Collections may be recorded by using a cash register, pre-numbered receipt book, log, etc., depending upon the nature of the transactions.

      2. **Pre-numbered Receipt Books:** Departments may order their own pre-numbered receipt books by entering a purchase requisition (PR) through eVA. Departments may contact the Student Accounts/Cashier’s Office (Cashier’s Office) for suggestions on where to purchase.
receipt books. The following requirements must be followed when using pre-numbered receipt books:

a. **Triplicate Copies:** Receipt books must provide triplicate copies of each receipt with distribution of the three copies as follows:
   i. First copy to the person from whom funds were received;
   ii. Second copy to the Cashier’s Office with the deposit; and
   iii. Third copy to remain in the receipt book for departmental records.

b. **Information Documented:** Individual receipts within the receipt book must include the following information:
   i. Dollar amount;
   ii. Date of transaction;
   iii. Pre-numbered receipt number;
   iv. Description of payment;
   v. Name of the person from whom funds were received; and
   vi. Signature of the person completing the receipt.

c. **Order Used:** Departments must ensure that receipts are issued in numeric order.

d. **Voided Receipts:** If receipts are voided, all three copies of voided receipts must remain in the receipt book for audit purposes.

C. **Specific Requirements for Certain Types of Transactions**

1. **In Person/Point-of-Sale:** All funds collected by departments in person (i.e. point-of-sale), regardless of method of payment, must be recorded in a pre-numbered receipt book or in a cash register/point-of-sale terminal.

2. **Mail:** All funds received through the mail must be promptly recorded in a log. Mail boxes must be checked on a daily basis when funds are expected. An example Check Receipt Mail Log is provided in Appendix B showing recommended elements.

3. **Checks:** Checks must be made payable to **Radford University.** All checks must be examined for correct dates, amounts, and signatures. The following requirements also apply when accepting checks:

   a. **Information Requested:** The following information should be requested to be documented on the face of the check:
      i. Name of person payment is from or being made on behalf of, if applicable;
      ii. Current address;
      iii. Telephone number;
      iv. ID of the payer (e.g., RUID, driver’s license number);
      v. Amount paid; and
      vi. Date.
b. **Restrictive Endorsement:** Checks must be restrictively endorsed immediately upon receipt using a departmental endorsement stamp. If an endorsement stamp is needed, please contact the Cashier’s Office. The endorsement must include the following:
   
   i. For Deposit Only to: Radford University – Department Name;
   
   ii. SunTrust Bank, East Main Street Office; and
   
   iii. Bank account number.

c. **Returned Checks:** Occasionally, checks are returned from the bank because of insufficient funds, uncollected funds, stop payments, etc. If collection attempts are unsuccessful, the department may be charged for the amount of the check. The returned check will be forwarded to the department so an attempt may be made to collect payment from the payer of the check.

4. **Payment Cards:** Arrangements to accept payment cards must be approved in accordance with the Radford University Payment Cards Policy.

D. **Deposits**

1. **Timing and Delivery:** All funds collected by University departments must be deposited with the Cashier’s Office no later than the next business day from the time the funds are initially received by any employee of the University, regardless of the amount. Deposits must be delivered directly to the Cashier’s Office. Taking deposits home for deposit the next day is prohibited. **Campus mail must not be used to deliver funds to the Cashier’s Office.** If bags are needed for deposits, contact the Cashier’s Office.

2. **Balancing:** When preparing deposits for submission to the Cashier’s Office, all funds collected must be totaled and balanced to related departmental records supporting the collection of the funds. Any discrepancies noted must be documented; see Section 3.D.5. below.

3. **Transmittal Form:** A cashier/deposit transmittal form must be completed for each deposit showing the information as presented in Appendix A, Cashier’s Transmittal Form (transmittal). The transmittal must be completed and signed by the person that prepared the deposit. If another person delivers the deposit to the Cashier’s Office, the person delivering the deposit must count the funds to ensure that the amount agrees with the amount the preparer listed on the transmittal and sign the transmittal to acknowledge the change in custody. The original and two copies of the transmittal must accompany the deposit submitted to the Cashier’s Office with one copy retained by the department.

4. **FOAP/Detail Codes:** University funds must be deposited only into appropriate University bank accounts through the Cashier’s Office using appropriate FOAP/Detail Codes as directed by the University Controller. The deposit of University funds into accounts such as RU Foundation accounts, club or organization bank accounts, or personal bank accounts is strictly prohibited. Departmental deposits may not be accepted by the Cashier’s Office without the proper FOAP/Detail Code(s).

5. **Oversages/Shortages:** All deposits must be made intact, inclusive of any over/short amounts, which must be documented on the transmittal.

6. **Cashier Verification:** Upon receipt, the cashier will sign and date the transmittal with the calendar date to indicate that the deposit has been received in the Cashier’s Office and
will return one copy to the person making the deposit. As it is not always possible for the cashier to verify the deposit amounts at the window, deposit amounts may be verified at a later time. When verified, the cashier will return one copy of the transmittal to the depositing department with a signature and date indicating that the deposit has been verified. Once keyed into the Banner System, the cashier will also return a numbered deposit receipt generated by the system to the depositing department. The Cashier’s Office will maintain the original of the transmittal.

7. **Departmental Review/Reconciliation:** Upon receiving the numbered deposit receipt generated by the Banner System from the Cashier’s Office, the depositing department must match the amount(s) and FOAP/Detail Code(s) on the deposit receipt to the transmittal, and reconcile funds collected to supporting documentation to ensure completeness and accuracy of the deposit. This review should be made by someone other than the person receiving funds or making deposits, if possible. Unexplained discrepancies must be discussed with the University Head Cashier or the Manager of Student Accounts/Cashier. The department must maintain written documentation to support the completion of this review/reconciliation.

E. **Security of University Funds and Records**

1. **Physical Security:**
   a. A minimum amount of funds should be maintained in cash registers, drawers, etc., in a location that is not visible to unauthorized personnel. Do not leave funds unattended or unsecured during the workday. While unattended, all funds must be kept in a locked safe, locked file cabinet, or other secure location.
   b. Safe combinations and keys should be restricted to a minimum number of employees. A list should be maintained, typically by a manager or supervisor, identifying who has safe combination and keys.
   c. Safe combinations and keys should be changed, at a minimum, when an employee having the combination or key transfers or terminates employment. (The University Locksmith may be able to assist).
   d. If bait money is maintained in the area, keep serial numbers recorded where they can be obtained by the police if needed. Do not store these numbers in the same location as the bait money. Bait money should not be labeled or marked in a manner that would draw attention to it.
   e. Avoid routine procedures that can be observed by a would-be robber. Vary time and route for making deposits. If possible, deposits should be disguised to prevent drawing attention.
   f. Use a University police officer as an escort when transporting large sums of money.
   g. University funds are required to be kept separate from personal funds.
   h. Check cashing, disbursements, and/or IOUs from change funds or revenue collected by departments is **strictly prohibited.**

2. **Missing Funds:** If funds are discovered to be missing by means such as breaking and entering, embezzlement, etc., notify University police immediately and secure the area to
prevent evidence from being destroyed. If an office is broken into, do not enter; the suspect could be hiding inside. Go to a safe place and telephone the police.

3. **Records:** Funds and their associated records must be kept in secure locations. The records should be stored separately from the actual funds to maintain accountability for loss of funds should a theft occur. Records must be maintained for three years plus the current fiscal year for auditing purposes. Such records may include, but are not limited to, revenue logs, cash register tapes/reports, transmittal copies, reconciliations, etc.

4. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

   A. **Department Responsibilities**

      1. Ensure compliance with the *Funds Handling Policy* and internal departmental procedures.

      2. Prepare written procedures detailing each step in the funds handling process for the Department Head, Director, or Manager, the funds handler, the depositor, and the reconciler (person reconciling deposits to the deposit receipt generated by the Banner System). Ensure that responsibility for funds received, from time of receipt to time of deposit, is clearly defined and documented within each authorized funds collection location. See Appendix C, Guidelines for Preparing Written Funds Handling Procedures for additional guidance.

      3. Ensure that adequate back-up procedures are in place so that, in the absence of an employee involved in the process, departmental responsibilities and deadlines can still be met.

      4. Establish adequate separation of duties. Funds collection handling, record-keeping, and reconciliations should be assigned to different employees. For those departments that do not have adequate staff to support proper separation of duties, sufficient alternative controls or procedures must be established to ensure procedures are followed and to mitigate any risk of loss or theft of funds.

      5. Send at least one departmental representative annually to training provided by the Student Accounts/Cashier’s Office on the *Funds Handling Policy*.

   NOTE: All funds collection handling operations are subject to review by Financial Services, the University's internal auditors and the external auditors. If the controls are inadequate, corrective action is required and monitored.

   B. **Cashier’s Office Responsibilities**

      1. Provide departments with instructions for the daily deposit of funds and ensure departments are properly advised of the *Funds Handling Policy* by offering periodic training.

      2. Reconcile Cashier/Deposit Transmittal Forms to funds received and provide receipts to department.

      3. Assist departments in resolving problems encountered in the reconciliation process.

      4. Provide departments with guidance on acquiring deposit bags and endorsement stamps.

      5. Review deposit dates to ensure deposits are being made timely. If it appears funds are being held beyond the next business day after receipt, the Cashier’s Office will send a
memo to the department stating the department is not in compliance with University policy. Departments may be asked to provide additional documentation regarding the deposit along with a corrective action plan.

C. University Controller’s Office Responsibilities

1. Provide FOAP/Detail Codes for all new (and existing) fee collections.

2. Oversee the Cashier’s Office operations and procedures as well as all banking arrangements.

3. Send out 2nd notification letters when funds are not being deposited timely notifying the department that it is not in compliance with University policy and that all subsequent violations will be sent to the CFO/VPFA and the department’s respective Division Head. Departments may be asked to provide additional documentation regarding the deposit.

   Internal Audit will also receive a copy of this notification.

D. CFO/VPFA Responsibilities

1. Approve new and revised fees in accordance with University and Commonwealth policies.

2. Terminate funds handling privileges for any department found not to be in compliance with this policy.

5. APPENDICES

   Appendix A: [Cashier’s/Deposit Transmittal Form]

   Appendix B: [Check Receipt Mail Log]

   Appendix C: [Guidelines for Preparing Written Funds Handling Procedures]

APPROVED BY:_________________ SIGNED_________________ DATE: 12/3/2015

NAME: Richard S. Alvarez

TITLE: Chief Financial Officer & Vice President for Finance and Administration