

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate
Business Meeting
September 11, 2024 – 3pm
McConnell Library 170/ RUC 3rd Floor Board Room

Present: Staci Allen, Doug Benedict, Sandra Bond, Avraham Boruchowitz, Ashlee Claud, Vanessa Conner, David Halpin, Kay Johnson, Mark Lambert, Sean Ramsey, Jess Rothe, Malinda Tasler, Susan Trageser (Cabinet Liaison), Juan Urista, Paula Vaughan-Burroughs, Megan Viet

Absent: Tom Bennett, Cory Durand, Chad Hyatt, Debra Johnson, Eric Lovik, Andrew Price, Tom Snediker

Guests: Brandon Cohen, Mary Fowler-Hughes, Christina Keller, Connie Phillips, Chris Stafford, Jennifer Whicker

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by President Ashlee Claud.

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from July 10, 2024 were approved.

3. Speaker: Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs

Trageser gave a Student Affairs overview and update. Process improvement, including removing barriers, is big on the radar.

Bill Wilson is the new director of the Military Resource Center. We are trying to remove barriers there, too.

Student Affairs Mission: Preparing Students for Lives of Meaning and Purpose – Well-Being, Engagement, Career Readiness.

- I. Well-being – The well-being of our team is important. If staff are not well, it is hard to be there for our students. We are providing professional development, flexible schedules, and making spaces and times for people to step away and enjoy each other's company.
- II. Engagement – Giving more distinct opportunities focusing on environment and well-being.
- III. Career Readiness – Emphasis on student employment. We retain students at higher rates when they are employed, and it helps them learn and be prepared in their chosen field. More than 200 students work for Student Affairs. We are looking at NACE competencies and training supervisors so they can have intentional strategic and holistic conversations with students.

Assessment – Assuring we have ways and strategies to assess processes with fewer steps and switching to more effective software. One result was changing move-in – bringing back continuing students first, then moving in new students. This gave opportunities for continuing students to help new students and reduced the number of “no shows” of students who do not show up on time.

Division highlights:

- I. Move-in

- II. Student success advocates – Hired 4 staff with a grant to help first Pell grant students succeed)
- III. Higher Grounds -- Outdoor orientation program – 15 students camped at SELU for 5 nights
- IV. Family Engagement – Family Weekend is now Family and Friends Weekend
- V. Esports – Continues to grow. Working on broadcasting, where students shoutcast the games as they are occurring. 14-18% of students involved in Esports in some way
- VI. SELU Conservancy – We are making it easier to request reservations. You will see more opportunities at Selu through RU Connected
- VII. HOPE – Recovery Community Healing, Outreach, Prevention and Empowerment. Grant funded. Building allies and have a learning program
- VIII. Radford Community Fest – lead role in involvement with this first community fest
- IX. Traditions Week – 1st or 2nd week in April – each class celebrated. Gift or prize with each event. Also events in Roanoke. Our students are really getting engaged
- X. Tartan Tails – Dogs!

Student Affairs Announcements:

- Highlander Table – Students can get meal swipes added to their card. Students can donate two a semester. Faculty and staff have no limits on donating meals.
- Highlander Pantry – 2nd floor of Heth Hall. If not open, they can go to Dean of Students office. Working on more evening and weekend hours. Open to everyone. Partnership with Chartwells. Must collect minimal information because we have agency status through Feeding Southwest Virginia.
- Highlander Student Emergency Fund – Dean of Students Office has some emergency funds. If you do not know where to send or guide a student, send them to Dean of Students Office.
- Flu vaccines – Sept. 18 and 19, 2024 RUC. Main Campus – Oct. 1, 10, 15. Faculty and Staff can take advantage of these clinics as well. Bring your health insurance card. If uninsured, it's \$30. There also will be vaccines at Employee benefit fair.
- Tartan 5K in Roanoke, Friday, Sept. 20. Have 100 registrants so far. Still have volunteer opportunities.
- First twilight run in Roanoke. Family and Friends weekend Sept. 27-29.

Questions & Answers

- Q. Is the student employment initiative shared in other areas of campus?
A. Yes. At the end of 2025, we will have a plan that is scalable. Trisha Smith, Nicole Cronenwett, and Shannon Shastry are leading. Contact any of them or Susan. We developed an instrument for students to self-report where they are on the NACE competencies. Many times, the scores on the post-test go down because they do not realize at the beginning of the semester where they are in that competency. Students work on a competency through the semester.
- Q. Will a COVID booster be available to employees?
A. It may be available through the employee fair. Students can get one through student health.

4. Adding Zoom option to Senate Business Meetings (Ashlee Claud):

Senate followed up on draft motion providing Zoom access for AP Senate Business Meeting guests and AP Senators who are out of town or teleworking. After discussion, the following Amendment to the AP Senate Bylaws was called for a motion, seconded and voted with the results being unanimous approval:

Article IX, Section 3

Virtual participation by Zoom will be made available for AP Senate business meetings to the Radford University community. We will be using Spotlight or a similar feature of Zoom. Attendees will join in a listen-only mode. Questions can be submitted by the chat feature. The AP Senators or their proxies are expected to attend meetings in-person unless out of town or teleworking.

Ashlee will send out a link to meetings.

5. **Morale Survey Update:** Ashlee Claud reported the committee met. Most of the trends are the same as before. An anomaly last year was physical well-being down by 10%. University communications still weren't great but are improving.
6. **Coffee with the President:** Coming up in nine days. Send questions to Ashlee by the end of day on Monday. Think of big picture questions.
7. **New Business – Questions from AP Faculty:**
 - On campus parking increase – The cost of parking jumped. Parking is cost-recovery; by state law, we cannot subsidize auxiliary units. Brandon Cohen said costs increased by 14% to right-size for FY2025, after no price increases for three years since COVID. We won't see a significant jump next year.
 - RUC Parking cost – Brandon is not as versed about the RUC situation. Mark Lambert said they are being charged \$55 a year.
 - Can 12-month faculty get bonus pay? – Brandon said this is an HR question involving our contracts. The questioner said this came up because University 100 instructors are interested in receiving bonus pay, and could drop teaching University 100 otherwise.
8. **Announcements –** Ashlee stopped compiling because of RU Connections. Other announcements?
 - Peters Gym is open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. Only 2 people have shown up in the morning. May have to remove these hours if no one shows up. Will be on a webpage on Monday. Faculty & Staff can pay to go to Student Rec/Wellness Center. \$254 per semester. There are lockers in Peters. Contact Kim Aspelmeier. Ashlee added that it's free, nice, and there are good showers.
 - Homecoming – October 3-5. Lots of activities on schedule. Friday is alumni volunteer leadership lunch. Saturday – Alumni Village (concert on Moffatt Lawn).
 - The updated AP Senate Handbook, new roster, minutes, and more have been submitted to IOneStop to update the AP Senate Webpages. The BOV approved the continual appointment contracts on June 6.
 - Tartan Tails. The next application period opens in January for dogs and other animals. One cat almost made it through the program.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

- October 9
- November 13
- December 11