



Student Affairs and Athletics Committee

2:00 p.m.

September 5, 2024

Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Board Room, Radford, VA

DRAFT

Minutes

Committee Members Present

Mr. David A. Smith, Chair
Mr. James C. Turk, Vice Chair
Ms. Callie M. Dalton
Mr. William C. Davis
Mr. George Mendiola, Jr.
Mr. Onjae Edmund (Non-Voting Student Advisory Member)

Board Members Present

Mr. Marquett Smith, *Rector*
Mr. Tyler W. Lester, *Vice Rector*
Mr. Dale S. Ardizzzone
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout
Ms. Betsy D. Beamer
Ms. Joann S. Craig
Dr. Betty Jo Foster
Ms. Lisa W. Pompa
Mr. Jonathan Sweet
Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert
Dr. Matthew Close, Faculty Representative

Others Present:

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President
Ms. Karen Castele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President
Mr. Cory Durand, Deputy Athletics Director
Ms. Jada Freeman, President, Student Government Association
Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Executive Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives
Dr. Dannette Gomez-Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications
Mr. Bruce Hayden, Associate Vice President Student Affairs/Dean of Students
Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration and CFO
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
Mr. Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics

Ms. Nancy Loosle, Associate Vice President for Campus Life at RUC
Mr. Kendall Pete, Director, Housing and Residential Life
Ms. Susan Richardson, University Counsel
Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Penny White, Vice President for University Advancement

Call to Order

Mr. David Smith, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. in the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Board Room, Radford, Virginia. Mr. Smith welcomed everyone to the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the September 5, 2024, meeting agenda, as published. Mr. James Turk, so moved, Mr. George Mendiola seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2024, Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting, as published. Mr. Turk so moved, Mr. William Davis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Student Affairs

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs, provided an update on the division's work related to advancing the two goals in the 2-year plan; specifically related to process improvement and student employment. Student Affairs continues to make progress on these goals and is on track to achieve the intended targets.

Dr. Trageser provided highlights from Move-In and the first week of classes. Through this she provided examples of changes in process and data showing positive results. One example was having continuing students return and move-in to university housing before the new entering students. This resulted in a 74% reduction in early arrival requests. Likewise, a shift in communication resulted in a 76% decrease in continuing student "no-shows" during move-in.

While final numbers are still pending, students enjoyed a broader range of events across move-in weekend through the first week and weekend following the start of classes with higher participation and engagement rates.

In discussing reviews of process and implementation of assessment tools, Dr. Trageser spoke about the learning and growth within the team and enhanced collaborations that have resulted; both generating a renewed energy and focus on innovation.

Students employed in the Division of Student Affairs continue to be retained 6.1% higher than all campus average. The Division has focused most recent efforts related to the student employment initiative and goal on supervisor training and strategic interventions. Dr. Trageser provided examples and quotes from students that demonstrated how this translates to day-to-day as students engage.

The inaugural Radford Community Fest, an event born through Joint Commission and co-sponsored by the City of Radford and Radford University, was held on Saturday, August 24. Dr. Trageser shared information regarding some of the planning that went into the event as well as several highlights.

Dr. Trageser wrapped up the Student Affairs update by highlighting two upcoming events, the Tartan 5K in Roanoke and Family Weekend.

Student Government Association

Student Government Association President Jada Freeman provided an update on the programs and initiatives the Executive Board, Senate and Cabinet Staff members have planned and collaborated on for the beginning of the semester. This included continued legislative discussions on syllabus access and increasing SGA membership.

SGA members were active in several events, including an opening tailgate to support the Women's Soccer team, a Club Fair, and a First Day Photos event where they took over three hundred photos of students.

Jada Freeman shared that interest meetings for SGA positions are underway and elections will be held soon after.

Athletics

Mr. Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics, presented Athletics updates to the committee regarding Academic Excellence. For the second time in the last three years, Radford University led all Big South Institutions with 85.5% of student-athletes on the Big South Presidential Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or Higher).

Mr. Chris Hertel, Head Volleyball coach, returns to the Highlanders after being with New Mexico State for the past five years. Chris was a longtime assistant under Marci Byers winning multiple championships for the Highlanders. Mr. Kevin Fagan, Head Softball coach, joins the Highlanders after stops at Emmanuel College and College of Central Florida where he led both programs to national rankings.

Mr. Lineburg updated the committee on the student-athlete NIL opportunities. Radford Athletics announced the launch of the Tartan Town Collective to help generate revenue for all three hundred student-athletes. The Tartan Town Collective is another opportunity for Radford student-athletes to capitalize on their name, image, and likeness. The athletics department now has the Tartan Town Collective, Highlander Exchange program, and Athlete's Thread programs in place for all student-athletes.

He further provided an update to the committee regarding the House v. NCAA lawsuit settlement that has been targeted at \$2.8 billion dollars. This settlement will cause a reduction of about half of Radford's NCAA distribution each year for the next ten years. He will update the committee as this evolves.

New improvements coming to the Dedmon Center for basketball season include: new video boards and scoreboards, new arena sound system, new LED color changing lights, a new volleyball practice surface, and a new portable basketball court.

Women's Soccer highlights the Fall season with the Highlanders being preseason #1. Ben Sohrabi just hit win number three hundred as a Highlander. Men's and women's basketball non-conference season has been released with a number of P4 matchups for both programs.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Fitchett
Executive Assistant to the
Vice President for Finance and Administration
and Chief Financial Officer

End of Board of Visitors Materials

