



Quarterly Meeting  
9:00 a.m.  
September 12, 2025  
Kyle Hall, Room 340, Radford VA  
DRAFT  
Minutes

**Board Members Present**

Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, Vice Rector  
Mr. Dale Ardizzone  
Ms. Jeanne Armentrout  
Ms. Betsy Beamer  
Ms. Joann Craig  
Mr. William C. Davis  
Dr. Betty Jo Foster  
Ms. Mary Anne Holbrook  
Mr. George Mendiola, Jr.  
Mr. Anthony Moore  
Mr. David A. Smith  
Mr. Jonathan Sweet

**Board Members Absent**

Mr. Tyler W. Lester, Rector  
Ms. Callie Dalton  
Mr. James C. Turk

**Others Present**

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President  
Ms. Karen Castelee, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President

Dr. Dannette Gomez Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications  
Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education  
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 Helms White, Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations  
Mr. Ryan Bowyer, Chief of Staff

### **Call to Order**

Vice Rector Jennifer Wishon Gilbert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Kyle Hall, 340. Vice Rector Gilbert noted that Rector Tyler Lester was unable to attend due to a new position in Washington, D.C. that started the same week as the Board meeting.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Vice Rector Jennifer Wishon Gilbert requested approval of the agenda. The approval of the agenda was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Vice Rector Jennifer Wishon Gilbert requested approval of the minutes from the June meeting. The June 2025 minutes were motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

### **The Radford Experience**

Jennifer Wishon Gilbert asked Athletic Director Robert Lineburg to introduce Macy Johnson, a women's golf player from Salem, Virginia. Johnson is the reigning Big South Conference Women's Golf Student-Athlete of the Year.

Ms. Johnson shared reflections on her student-athlete experience, highlighting the support of Radford's faculty, the ability to balance academics and athletics through strong communication and planning, the sense of community, and the family she has found as a Highlander.

### **President's Report**

President Bret Danilowicz provided a report on recent Radford University activities and performance. A copy of the President's remarks are attached as Attachment A and are made a part hereof.

### **Strategic Planning 2026-2031 Update**

Strategic Planning Committee co-chairs Dr. Sharon Roger Hepburn and Dr. Angela Joyner presented an update on the development of the new six-year strategic plan, *Shaping Tomorrow – Together*, which is scheduled to launch in January 2026.

The co-chairs reviewed the timeline and extensive campus engagement leading to the current draft, including committee work launched in September 2024 and with broad input from faculty, staff, and stakeholders. Of important note, the co-chairs noted the shift to six overarching themes as this was a major update to the organizational structure of the plan. The new six overarching themes are as follows: (1) Culture of care, (2) Academic achievement and intellectual discovery, (3) Student success and experiential learning, (4) Strategic partnerships and community engagement, (5) Organizational excellence and continuous improvement, and (6) Communication and collaboration. In addition, six Bold Commitments were introduced. These are as follows: (1) Guaranteeing experiential learning for students and supporting workforce needs, (2) Building and fostering a culture of care, (3) Becoming the premier destination for healthcare education and talent in Southwest Virginia, (4) Modernizing technology and business processes, (5) Expanding regional economic opportunities and partnerships, and (6) Building affinity for and pride in Radford University.

#### **Report from the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster reported that the committee met on September 11, 2025.

Dr. Foster reported that discussion centered on the Academic Points of Pride, a discussion on priorities coming out of the Division of Academic Affairs, and three major responsibilities the division had in the two-year strategic plan.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

#### **Report from the Business Affairs and Audit Committee**

Ms. Jeanne Armentrout reported that the Business Affairs and Audit Committee met on September 11.

Ms. Armentrout reported that Ms. Margaret McManus, University Auditor, gave an overview of four audit reports: FY 2025 activity report, FY 2025 actual expenditures and staff hours, FY 2026 projected expenditures and staff hours, and FY 2025 balance scorecard. In addition, they were informed of five other audit reports: Fixed asset verifications, IT cloud hosted account management on applicant insight, IT cloud hosted account management on I9, FY 2025 inventory, and College transition audit for the college of humanities and behavioral sciences.

Ms. Armentrout reported that Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration, gave an overview of the financial performance report for 2024 - 2025; included review of year-end financial activity as of June 30, 2025; discussed the six-year plan for board consideration; the 2025 - 2026 proposed operating budget for Board consideration; and AP faculty handbook revisions for Board consideration.

Five items as a block were presented for approval out of committee. These are the FY 2025 - 2026 audit plan, the 2026 - 2032 six-year capital plan, the six-year plan to be submitted to Op-Six, the FY 2025 - 2026 operating budget, and various changes and revisions to AP faculty handbook. This block was approved unanimously.

### **Report from the Enrollment Management and Brand Equity**

Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert reported that the committee met on September 11, 2025.

**University Communications Plan:** Dr. David Perryman and Ms. Cecilia Crowe reported on a new university communications plan intended to strengthen strategic communication with internal and external stakeholders, prospective students, and the public.

**Fall Census / Enrollment Update:** The committee reported stable tuition and enrollment, with growth in full-time, first-year students on the main campus and stable graduate enrollment. Total university enrollment reached 7,863 students, exceeding the goal by approximately 50 students. Enrollment strategies were discussed; specific details can be found in the committee minutes.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

### **Report from the External Engagement Committee Report**

Ms. Betsy Beamer, Chair, reported that the committee met on September 11. She presented highlights of external engagement and partnerships. Ms. Beamer then gave updates on Advancement and Alumni Relations. Specific details regarding both of these updates may be found in the committee minutes.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

### **Report from the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee**

Mr. David Smith, Chair, reported that the committee met on September 11. He presented highlights from the meeting, which included a robust presentation from the Student Government President, Mr. Owen Starr. He reported that then Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Mr. Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics, gave updates from their respective areas. Specific information regarding these updates may be found in those committee minutes.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

### **Foundation Report**

Mr. George Mendiola, Jr., Board Liaison to the Radford University Foundation, provided an update. The Foundation completed a CEO transition to Derek Neal, previously Chief Financial Officer, ensuring continuity. A year-over-year asset comparison showed sustained growth over four years, driven by campaign success and market returns. Since fiscal year ending June 30,

2022, Foundation assets have increased 20.3%, enabling nearly \$22 million in university support, scholarships, and student needs. The Highlander Hotel's integration into the Tapestry Collection by Hilton has produced favorable occupancy rates.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

### **Student Representative Report**

Ms. Dominica Butler ("Dom"), Student Representative to the Board, delivered her inaugural presentation. Ms. Butler included key initiative themes in her remarks. She highlighted the need to strengthen student networking and engagement, to improve how students receive information through consistent communication systems, and to expand student involvement traditions. Further, Ms. Butler stated that planned outcomes from these efforts included developing a universal student communication structure, launching monthly student leader meetings through Student Involvement, and highlighting student organization contributions more regularly.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

### **Closed Session**

A motion was made and seconded that the Board convene a closed session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A) items (1), (8), and (9) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for discussion of personnel matters related to the President's performance plan, consultation with legal counsel on Board statutory responsibilities and legal obligations, and matters related to gifts, bequests, and fundraising activities. The motion carried, and the Board entered closed session.

### **Reconvened Session and Resolution of Certification**

Upon return to the open session, the Board approved the Resolution of Certification affirming that only matters lawfully exempted under FOIA and identified in the motion were discussed in closed session. The resolution passed by roll call vote.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, Vice Rector Gilbert adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Bowyer, Ed.D.

Chief of Staff