

# Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

June 2026



**Radford**  
UNIVERSITY



Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee  
9:45a.m.\*\*  
June 4, 2026  
Kyle Hall, Room 340, Radford, VA

**DRAFT**  
**Agenda**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Call to Order</b>  | Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair  |
| <b>Approval of Agenda</b>   | Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair  |
| <b>Approval of Minutes</b>  | Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair  |
| o March 19, 2026  |   |
| o <b>Presentation</b>   |   |
| o <b>Academic Affairs Update</b>  | Dr. Bethany M. Usher, <i>Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs</i> |
| o Strategic Priorities  |   |
| o <b>Informational Item</b>   | Dr. Bethany M. Usher, <i>Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs</i> |
| o Emeritus Faculty<br><i>(Attachment A)</i>   |   |
| o <b>Recommendations and Action Items</b>   |   |
| o Recommendation to Approve Changes to the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook, Section 4.1 College Governance<br><i>(Attachment B)</i>  |   |
| o Recommendation to Approve Changes to the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook, Section 1.1.2, 4.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.3.1, and 4.1.3.3 College of Graduate Studies and Research<br><i>(Attachment C)</i> |   |
| o Recommendation to Approve the Discontinuance of the Master of Science (MS) in Data and Information Management (DAIM)<br><i>(Attachment D)</i>   |   |
| o Recommendation to Approve the Discontinuance of the Master of Science (MS) in Athletic Training (MSAT)<br><i>(Attachment E)</i>   |   |

- **Faculty Senate Update** Dr. Matthew Close, *Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors*
- **Other Business** Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair
- **Adjournment** Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair

**\*\* All start times for committee meetings are approximate. Meetings may begin either before or after the listed approximate start time as committee members are ready to proceed.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair

Mr. William Davis, Vice Chair

Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout

Ms. Joann S. Craig

Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet

Dr. Matthew Close, (Non-Voting Faculty Advisory Representative)

# Meeting Materials



**Radford**  
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# Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

**Bethany Usher**  
**Provost and Senior Vice President**

**Academic Affairs**

March 19, 2026



**Radford**  
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# Agenda

- Davis College Financial Success Center overview
- Strategic Plan
- Information Item: Emeritus Faculty
- Action Items: Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook updates
- Action Items: Academic Programs
- Questions and Conversation

# Davis College of Business and Economics – Building Financial Success at Radford and in the Community

Dean Donna McCloskey



# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

- New River Community Action VITA program prepared 1000+ returns at 4 locations in the New River Valley saving local residents over \$250,000 in tax preparation fees
- Students ran one of the community clinics here in Kyle Hall
- Faculty Coordinator: Yiwen “Wendy” Li
- Student Volunteers: Corohn Gregg, Jacob Crewell, Debora Brumback and Jeffrey Kamal

# Financial Success Center



- The Virginia Credit Union Financial Success Center is being launched this Fall through a transformational \$2.5 million, 10-year gift, positioning the university as a regional leader in practical financial wellness, economic mobility and career readiness
- Mission is to equip students — and eventually the broader community — with the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions throughout life
- Philosophical pillars: Applied, Integrated, Sustained and Actionable



# Radford University Strategic Plan

Academic Affairs Strategic Priorities

# Academic Affairs Strategic Priorities



**Develop a  
Strategic  
Curricular  
Portfolio**



**Improve  
Student  
Success**



**Ensure  
Experiential and  
Work-based  
Learning  
Opportunities**



**Foster Multi-  
Disciplinary and  
Community  
Collaboration**



**Support Thriving  
Faculty and Staff**

**Use technology and data wisely to improve outcomes**

# Develop a Strategic Curricular Portfolio

- General Education
- Health Sciences
- Online Education
- Graduate Education

# Curriculum Lifecycle and Academic Portfolio

## Programs in Development

- MSN Clinical Nurse Leadership
- MSN Nursing Education
- Graduate Certificates
  - Biology
  - Political Science and Humanities
  - Psychology
  - History
  - Physics
  - Artificial Intelligence

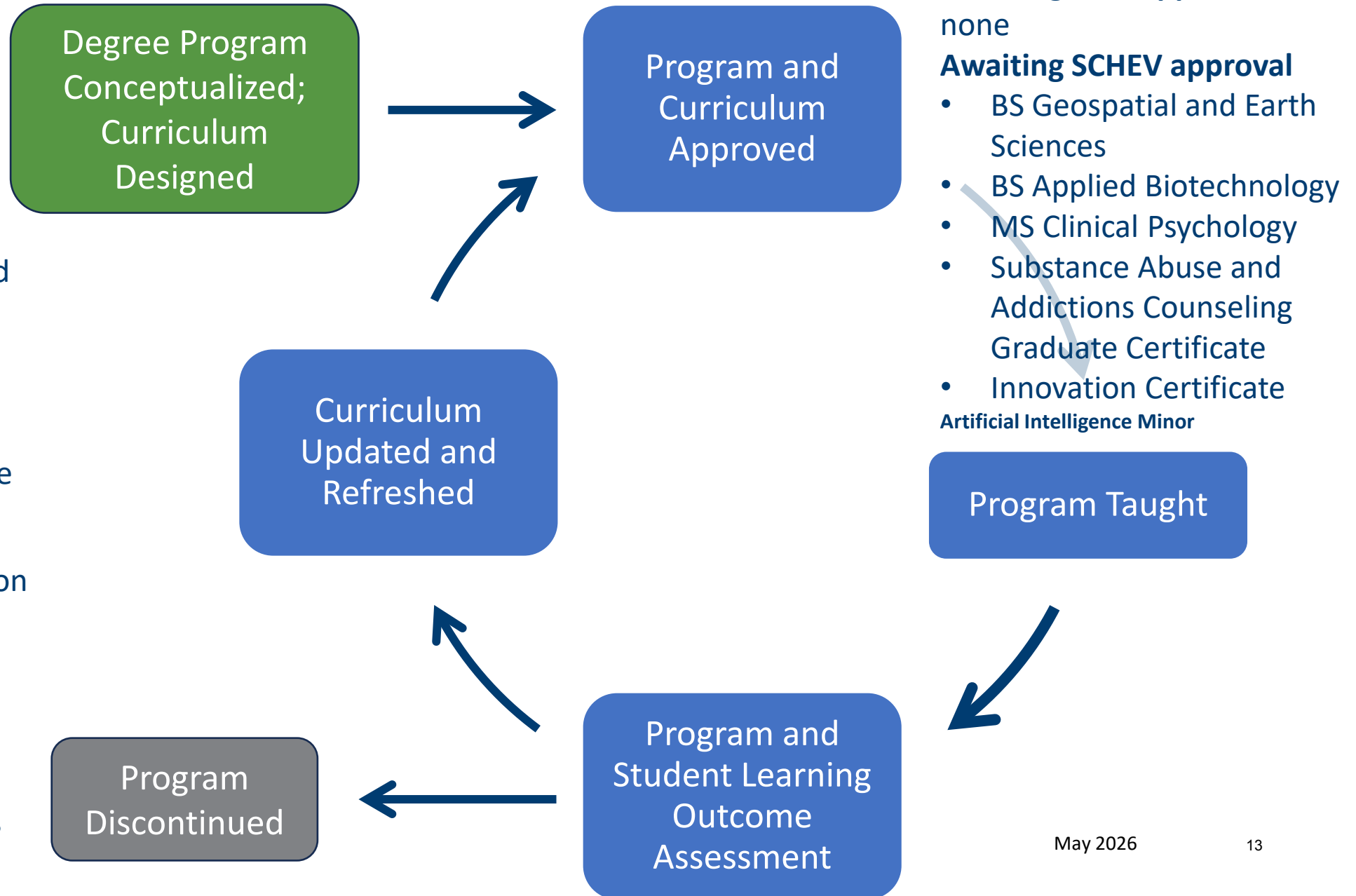
## Awaiting BOV approval

- MS Data and Information Management
- MS Athletic Training

## Awaiting SCHEV approval

- BS Biomedical Science
- BS Geology
- BS Geospatial Sciences

12 minors



**Awaiting BOV approval**  
none

## Awaiting SCHEV approval

- BS Geospatial and Earth Sciences
  - BS Applied Biotechnology
  - MS Clinical Psychology
  - Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling Graduate Certificate
  - Innovation Certificate
- Artificial Intelligence Minor

Program Taught

Program and Student Learning Outcome Assessment

Curriculum Updated and Refreshed

Program Discontinued

# General Education Update



The General Education Program is a transformative learning experience that advances the university's values and its vision of student-centered learning, positioning students as ethical community leaders in Appalachia, the Commonwealth, and beyond. Throughout the program, students will cultivate core competencies, encounter and experiment with new ways of thinking, and learn how different disciplines develop and apply knowledge to make meaningful change.<sup>C</sup>

Integration	Navigate Your Journey (3)
Inquiries 18 credit minimum	Social and Behavioral Inquiry (6)
	Humanistic and Artistic Inquiry (6)
	Scientific Inquiry (with lab) (6-8)
Competencies 9 credits	Mathematics (3)
	Written Communication (6)
Integration	RADF101 Find your place here (3)

# College of Education and Human Development



**CAEP** | **ACCREDITED PROVIDER**

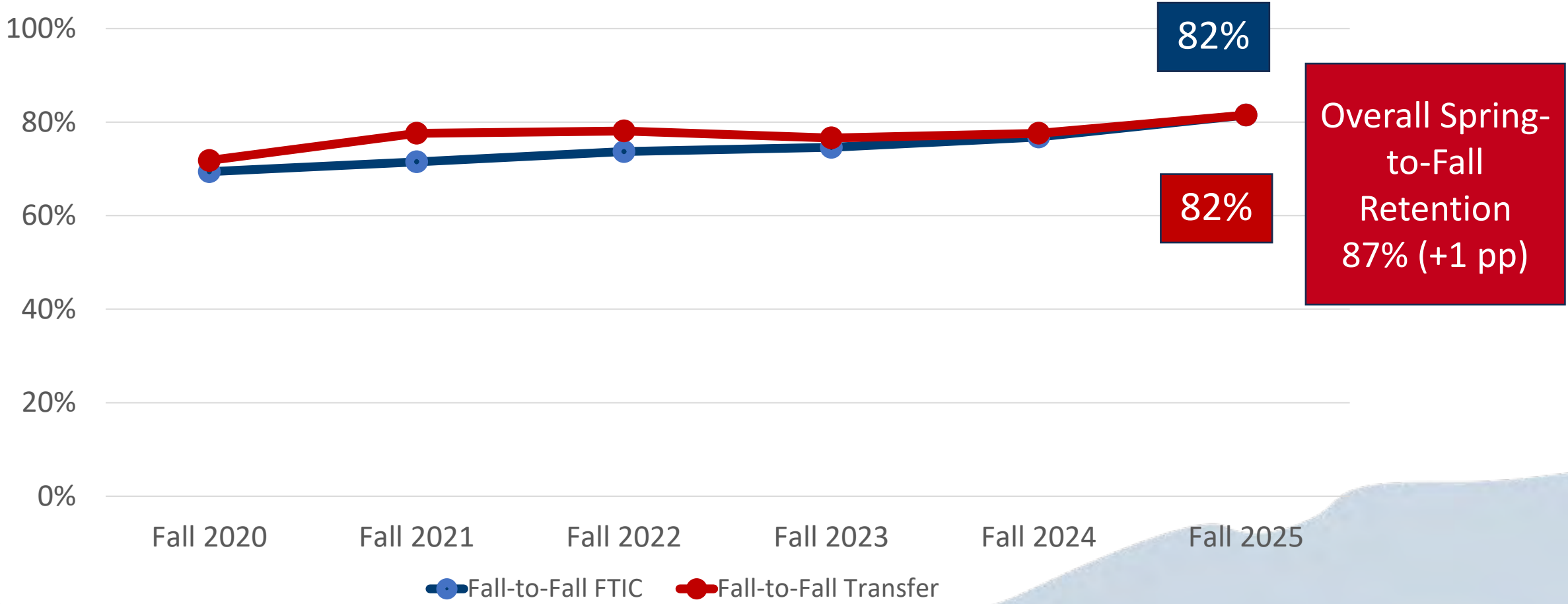
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATOR PREPARATION ACCREDITATION



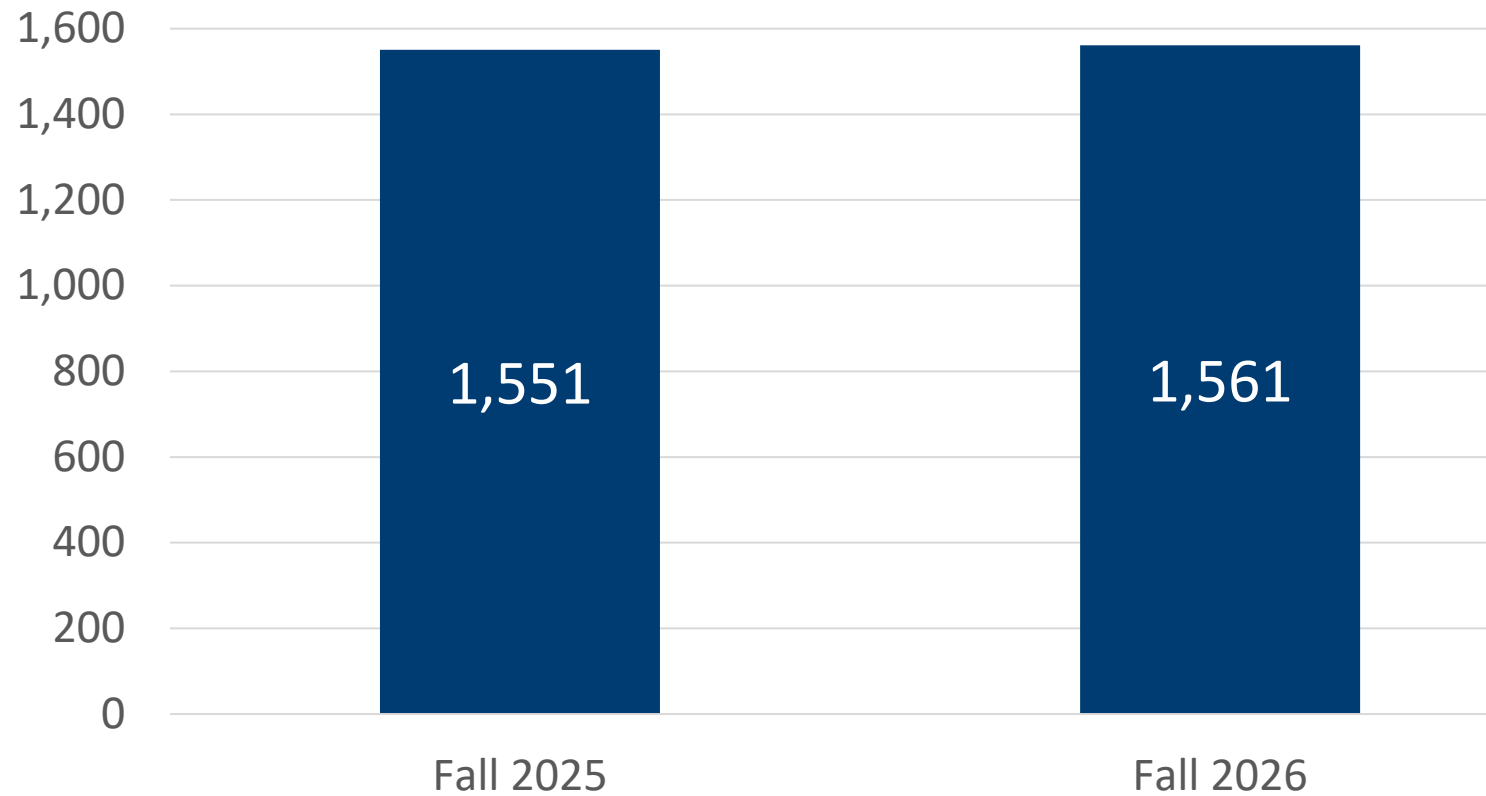


# Improve Student Success

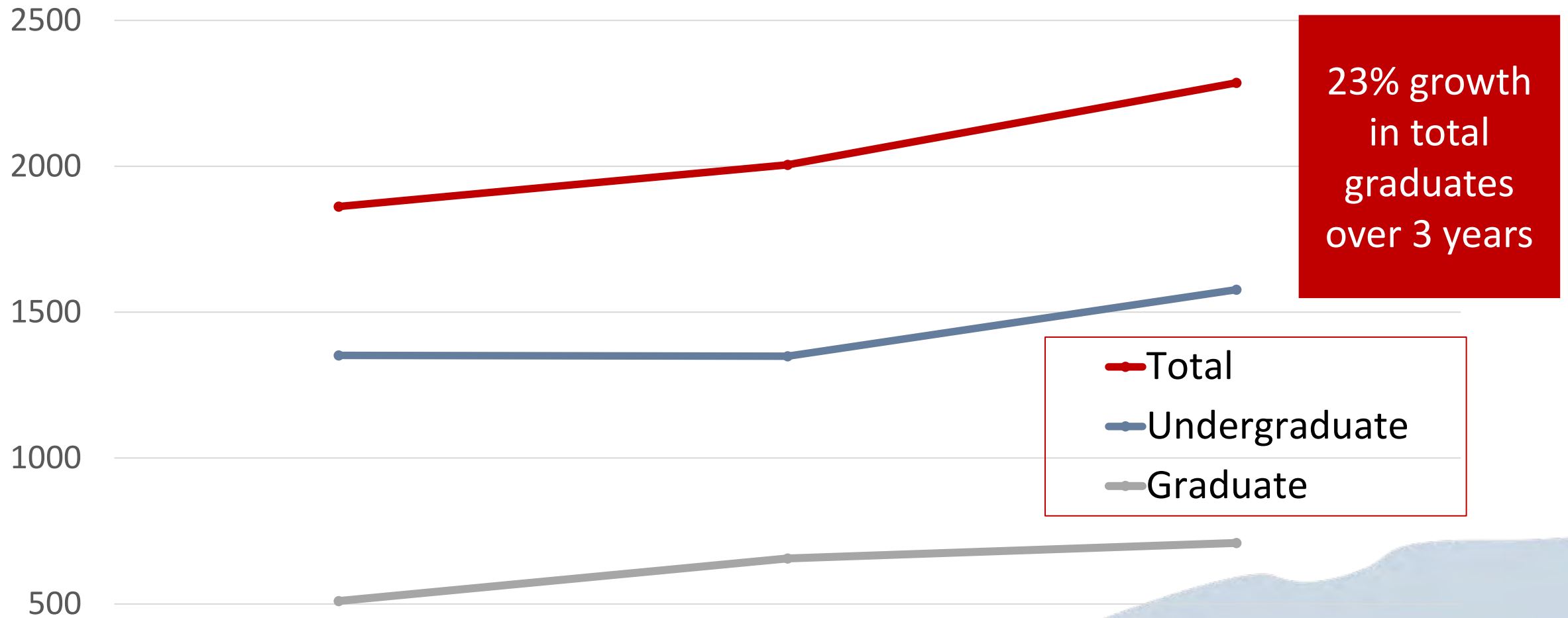
# Fall-to-Fall Retention – Early Indicators



# Quest Registrations

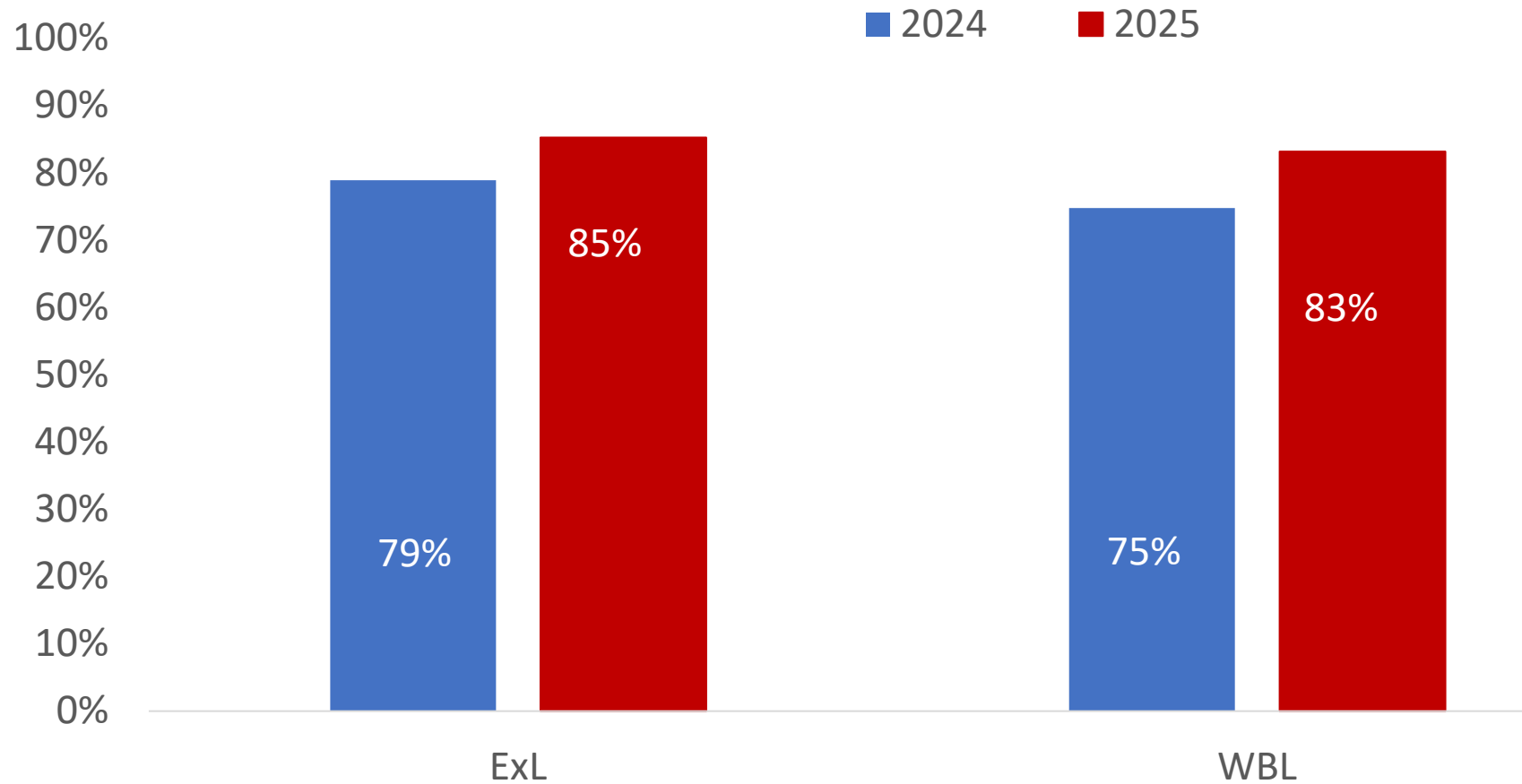


# Total Graduates (3 Year Trend)

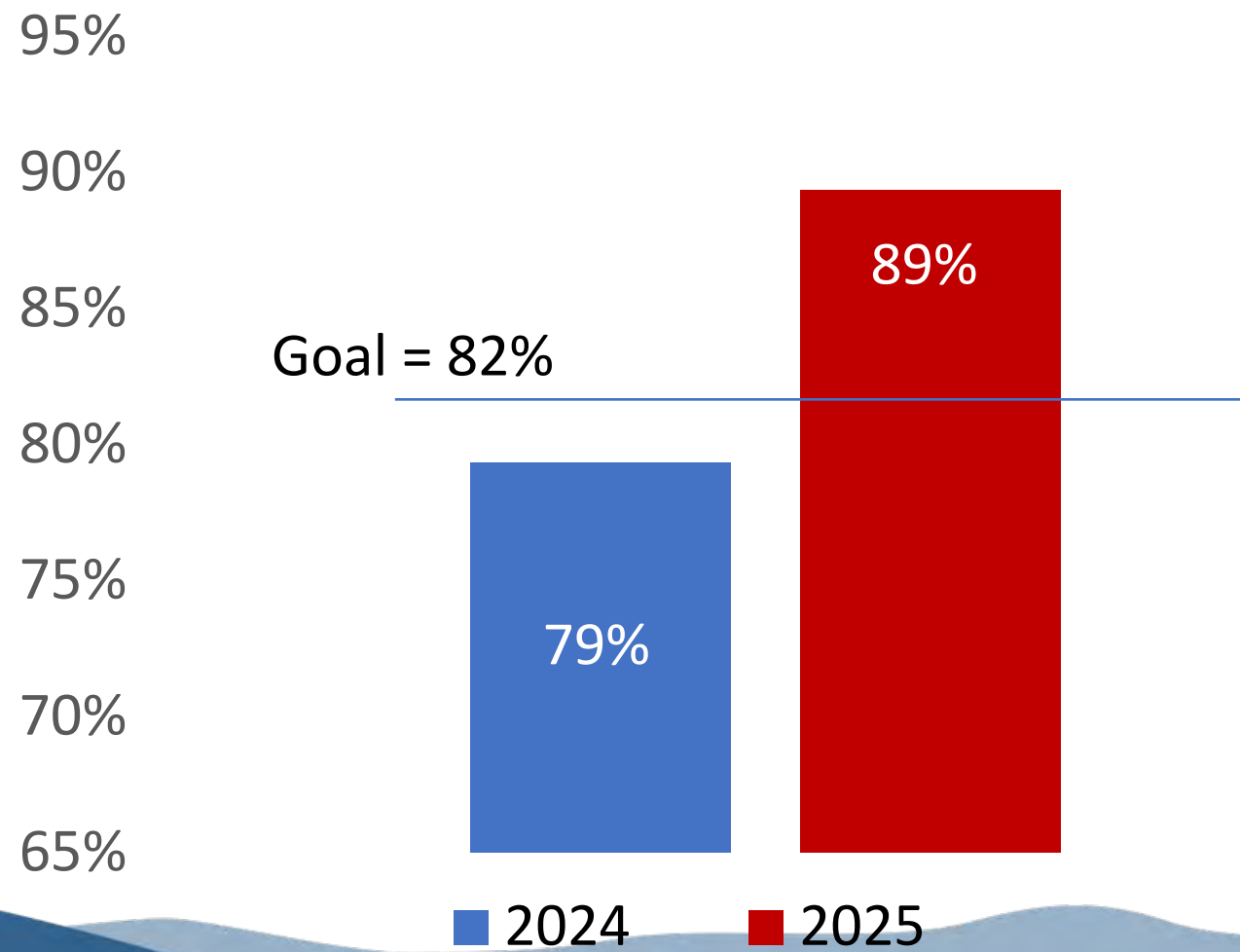


# Ensure Experiential and Work-based Learning Opportunities

# Record Engagement in Experiential Education



# Undergraduate Experiential Exceeds Goal



Top Experiential Learning Experiences for the class of 2025

- Undergraduate Research – 5586 experiences
- Special Training and Fieldwork – 2903 experiences
- Internships – 474 experiences

# Career ready and experiential education

92%

Employed,  
Continuing  
education,  
Military

Knowledge Rate:  
74.5% (1416 / 1901)



# Spring 2026 Institution-wide Showcase Events



- Wicked Festival – 195 students
- Student Engagement Forum – 425 students
- Honors Capstone – 52 students
- Graduates with the Research Scholar diploma distinction – 119



# Radford Mock Trial Team Competes at Opening Round Championship Series



Ended season in top 20% national (177 out of 866 collegiate teams)



**Biology majors  
Trinity Roberts  
(left) and Grace  
Parton, mentored  
by Jason Davis,  
named Goldwater  
Scholars**



# Honors College recognizes record 63 graduates at Medallion Ceremony





# Davis College Competitions



Davis College Innovation Challenge

American Marketing Association (AMA) International Collegiate Conference

Radford College Fed Challenge

# Foster Multi-Disciplinary and Community Collaboration

# Health Sciences Strategy

Recognized as the premier destination for healthcare education and talent

Healthy Lifespans in Southwest and Southside Virginia that equal or surpass Virginia benchmark

Radford University Health Sciences

Academic Programs  
Primary, Allied, and  
Mental Health

Center for Rural  
Health

Health career  
pipeline  
development

Community  
collaborations for  
education, research,  
and service

Improving the health and well-being of rural and underserved communities



# Radford University opens CARES Mobile Health Clinic



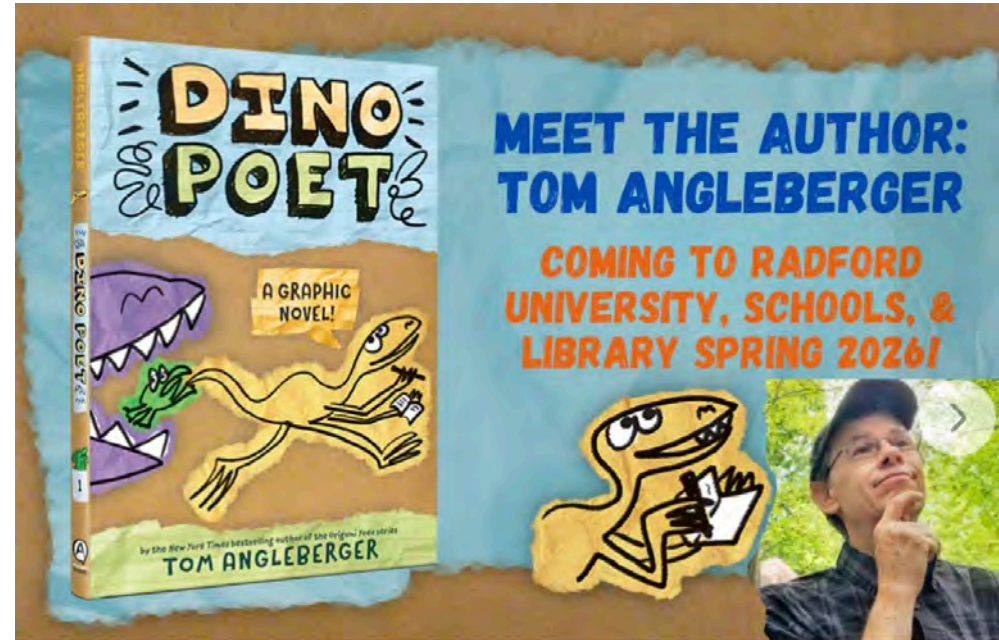
Partnership with Anthem  
HealthKeepers Plus,  
Virginia Department of  
Health New River District,  
and New River Valley  
Community Services



# Grand opening of Radford's Highlander Center for Character and Public Impact



# Radford Community Collaborations



University Libraries  
Patricia Langford Roughton Teaching Resources Center  
College of Education and Human Development





# Support Thriving Faculty and Staff

**Associate  
Provost Jeanne  
Mekolichick  
named CUR  
Fellow**



“Jeanne’s thoughtful career trajectory has had a mission – to develop and emphasize how undergraduate research prepares students for their professional lives,”

# 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Academic Affairs Awards ceremony



# Academic Affairs Leadership

Artis College of  
Science and  
Technology  
*Interim Dean*  
*Christine Small*

College of Visual and  
Performing Arts  
*Dean*  
*Rachel Williams*

College of Education  
and Human  
Development  
*Dean*  
*Tamara Wallace*

Davis College of  
Business and  
Economics  
*Dean*  
*Donna McCloskey*

College of  
Humanities and  
Behavioral Science  
*Dean*  
*Jeff Aspelmeier*

**Provost and Senior  
Vice President**  
*Bethany M. Usher*

Executive Assistant  
to the Provost  
*Karen Montgomery*

Waldron College of  
Health and Human  
Services  
*Dean*  
*Kenneth Cox*

College of Nursing  
*Dean*  
*Wendy Downey*

Finance and  
Administration  
*Director*  
*Adam Neal*

Academic Affairs  
*Associate Provost*  
*Jeanne Mekolichick*

Student Success  
*Assistant Provost*  
*Jerel Benton*

Curriculum and  
Academic Quality  
*Assistant Provost*  
*Jessica Stowell*

Graduate Affairs  
*Assistant Provost*  
*Agida Manizade*

University Registrar  
*Katie Piper*

Health Sciences  
*Assistant Vice President*  
*Active Search*

Radford Online  
*Assistant Vice President*  
*Adam Barger*



# Informational and Voting Items

# Information Item: 2026-2027 Faculty Emeriti



**Associate Professor  
Elizabeth Altieri**  
School of Teacher  
Education &  
Leadership, College of  
Education and Human  
Development



**Associate Professor  
Carol Bland**  
School of Teacher  
Education &  
Leadership, College of  
Education and Human  
Development



**Associate Professor  
Sarah Brown**  
Graduate Nursing,  
College of Nursing



**Professor Kristan  
Morrison**  
School of Teacher  
Education &  
Leadership, College of  
Education and Human  
Development



**Professor Bruce  
Mahin**  
Department of Music,  
College of Visual and  
Performing Arts

AESSC Attachment A

# Board Action Items: Approve Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook Update

## Update Section 4.1 College Governance

- *Include College of Nursing*



# Board Action Items: Approve Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook Updates

## Delete Section 1.1.2: Graduate Faculty Classification

- *Remove separate authority to designate Graduate Faculty*

## Sections 4.1 (inclusive) College Governance

- *Update to remove reference to College of Graduate Studies and Research*



# Board Action Item: Approve Academic Program Closure

## Data and Information Management, Master of Science

- *Launched in 2016*
- *Continuous low enrollment*
- *Provisions for teach-out in place*
- *Responsive to SCHEV Program Productivity Policy*
- *Streamlines curricula in alignment with Curriculum Lifecycle*

# Board Action Item: Approve Academic Program Closure

## Athletic Training, Master of Science

- *Launched in 2022*
- *Continuous low enrollment*
- *Provisions for teach-out in place*
- *Responsive to SCHEV Program Productivity Policy*
- *Streamlines curricula in alignment with Curriculum Lifecycle*

# Questions and Conversation

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE  
June 5, 2026**

**EMERITUS FACULTY**

Based on recommendations from the Department Personnel Committee, the Department Chair, the College Dean, and the Provost, the President has awarded emeritus status to the following retired faculty members:

Professor Bruce Mahin	Department of Music
Associate Professor Sara Brown	Graduate Nursing
Associate Professor Elizabeth Altieri	School of Teacher Education & Leadership
Associate Professor Carol Bland	School of Teacher Education & Leadership
Professor Kristan Morrison	School of Teacher Education & Leadership

- Criteria for the awarding of emeritus faculty status are:
  - A minimum of ten years of service to Radford University;
  - Evidence of effective teaching; and
  - Significant professional contributions.
  
- The privileges and responsibilities attached to emeritus status include:
  - Use of the library;
  - Use of those athletic facilities available to regular faculty;
  - Use of a university computer account;
  - A Radford University identification card and special event discounts available with it;  
and
  - Attendance at University functions that are open to all regular faculty

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 4, 2026**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE  
TEACHING AND RESEARCH FACULTY HANDBOOK**

**WHEREAS**, all proposed changes to the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook* must be managed in accord with §5.0 of that handbook; and

**WHEREAS**, the authority to amend or revise the Faculty Handbook lies with the Board of Visitors. However, proposals for revising the Handbook may be initiated by faculty, administrators, the President, or members of the Board of Visitors. Revisions fall into two categories: (1) those required to ensure that the University is in compliance with state policies and mandates, and (2) those within the purview of the decision-making processes within the University; and

**WHEREAS**, revisions required to ensure that the University is in compliance with state policies and mandates, and that do not require a decision by University personnel, will be effected through an administrative update, with faculty being informed of the change and the reasons for it; and

**WHEREAS**, revisions within the purview of the decision-making processes in the University Internal Governance system will be considered by appropriate committees as defined by the Internal Governance system. Proposals for changes will be made in the form of text intended to replace a portion of the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook, noting new language and striking out the old language; and

**WHEREAS**, it will be the Faculty Senate's responsibility to ensure that the general faculty is provided time and opportunity to review the proposed change so faculty can communicate with their senators prior to any action by the Faculty Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Faculty Senate's recommendations on proposed revisions to the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook will be forwarded to and approved by the President. The Provost will forward the Faculty Senate's recommendations to the Academic Excellence and Research Committee who will in turn make recommendations to the member of the full Board of Visitors;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors of Radford University hereby approves in accordance with §5.0 of the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook*, **Section 4.1: College Governance** of the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook* as hereby amended. Said sections are to now read as follows (additions are in **red**):

**Referred by:** Governance Committee

**MOTION:**

The Faculty Senate approves the addition of the College of Nursing (red type) to Section 4.1 College Governance of the T&R Faculty Handbook.

**4.1 College Governance**

The following provisions shall apply to the Artis College of Science and Technology, the Davis College of Business and Economics, the College of Education and Human Development, **the College of Nursing**, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the Waldron College of Health and Human Services, and where applicable, the College of GradUpdate uate Studies and Research.

**RATIONALE:**

The School of Nursing was elevated to a college. This motion seeks to update handbook language to include the College of Nursing with the other colleges in College Governance.

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 4, 2026**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE  
TEACHING AND RESEARCH FACULTY HANDBOOK**

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**WHEREAS**, the authority to amend or revise the Faculty Handbook lies with the Board of Visitors. However, proposals for revising the Handbook may be initiated by faculty, administrators, the President, or members of the Board of Visitors. Revisions fall into two categories: (1) those required to ensure that the University is in compliance with state policies and mandates, and (2) those within the purview of the decision-making processes within the University; and

**WHEREAS**, revisions required to ensure that the University is in compliance with state policies and mandates, and that do not require a decision by University personnel, will be effected through an administrative update, with faculty being informed of the change and the reasons for it; and

**WHEREAS**, revisions within the purview of the decision-making processes in the University Internal Governance system will be considered by appropriate committees as defined by the Internal Governance system. Proposals for changes will be made in the form of text intended to replace a portion of the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook, noting new language and striking out the old language; and

**WHEREAS**, it will be the Faculty Senate's responsibility to ensure that the general faculty is provided time and opportunity to review the proposed change so faculty can communicate with their senators prior to any action by the Faculty Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Faculty Senate's recommendations on proposed revisions to the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook will be forwarded to and approved by the President. The Provost will forward the Faculty Senate's recommendations to the Academic Excellence and Research Committee who will in turn make recommendations to the member of the full Board of Visitors;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors of Radford University hereby approves in accordance with §5.0 of the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook*, **Section 1.1.2, 4.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.3.1, and 4.1.3.3; College of Graduate Studies and Research** of the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook* as hereby amended. Said sections are to now read as follows (additions are in **red**):

**Referred by:** Governance Committee

**MOTION:**

The Faculty Senate recommends the deletion (~~stricken through~~) of language referring to the College of Graduate Studies and Research and **Graduate Faculty** in the document T & R Faculty Handbook in Sections 1.2.2., 4.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.3.1, and 4.1.3.3:

**1.2.2 Graduate Faculty Classification**

~~Criteria and procedures for election to the Graduate Faculty, and the classifications of Graduate Faculty membership, are determined by the Graduate Affairs Council which shall publish them annually and make them available through the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The Graduate Affairs Council is the final authority for granting and~~ **renewing Graduate Faculty status.**

**4.1 College Governance**

The following provisions shall apply to the Artis College of Science and Technology, the Davis College of Business and Economics, the College of Education and Human Development, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the Waldron College of Health and Human Services, ~~and where applicable, the~~ **College of Graduate Studies and Research.**

**4.1.2 College Membership**

All faculty with teaching appointments in a college, as defined in section 1.1 of this Handbook, are members of that college.

Voting in undergraduate college meetings shall be limited to full-time Teaching and Research faculty in the college's academic units and full-time Administrative and Professional faculty having appointments within the college, with the exception of the Dean.

~~Voting in the~~ **College of Graduate Studies and Research** shall be limited to faculty having full or associate membership in the graduate faculty and who are either a school director or department chair, ~~or report directly to such a person.~~

Any additional college requirements for voting, such as attendance requirements, shall apply to all faculty with voting rights in the college.

**4.1.3 Administration of Colleges**

~~With the exception of the~~ **College of Graduate Studies and Research,** The colleges of the University are composed of academic units: departments, schools (which may or may not consist of departments), and interdisciplinary programs. The chairpersons of departments and, where applicable, the directors of schools and/or interdisciplinary programs are responsible to the deans of their respective colleges for the administration of their academic units.

#### 4.1.3.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Deans

The Deans of the undergraduate colleges, and the ~~Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research~~, are the chief administrative officers of each college. The Dean's responsibilities are primarily:

- to lead the faculty and staff of the college in developing and delivering educational opportunities of the highest quality possible for students, consistent with the mission of the College,
- to lead the College in procuring and managing fiscal, human, and physical resources necessary to accomplish these goals,
- to represent the college, its goals and needs to other external as well as internal constituencies, and
- to promote the overall excellence and welfare of the University

Based on recommendations from the Provost, the college deans are appointed by the President, subject to annual evaluations of their effectiveness in this capacity.

#### 4.1.3.3 College Committees ~~(in all but the College of Graduate Studies and Research)~~

##### **RATIONALE:**

A resolution was passed in 2024 to dissolve the College of Graduate Studies and Research and re-organize its various responsibilities across a newly formed Office of Graduate Studies, Academic Affairs, and Enrollment Management and to apply for approval from the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV). Approval was received from SCHEV for the discontinuance of the College.

Criteria and procedures for election to the Graduate Faculty and the classification of Graduate Faculty membership have been eliminated by the Office of Graduate Affairs.

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS  
COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 4, 2026**

**RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS) IN  
DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Radford University created the Master of Science (MS) in Data and Information Management program with a projected enrollment of 40 students per academic year; and

**WHEREAS**, the MS in Data and Information Management program has experienced low enrollment since its launch in 2016, with fewer than 10 students enrolled annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the program is not projected to meet State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) viability requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed discontinuance is consistent with Radford University's Curriculum Lifecycle policies and processes;

**WHEREAS**, arrangements will be made to ensure that any currently enrolled students are provided with an appropriate opportunity to complete their program of study;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors of Radford University approves the discontinuance of the Master of Science (MS) in Data and Information Management and its removal from the University's degree inventory;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President and/or his designee(s) are hereby authorized to submit all required documentation to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to obtain approval for the discontinuance of the program.

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS  
COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 4, 2026**

**RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ATHLETIC TRAINING (MSAT)**

**WHEREAS**, Radford University created the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program due to the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) changing accreditation standards to require a master's degree in alignment with other healthcare professions; and

**WHEREAS**, the MSAT program has experienced low enrollment since its launch in 2022, with fewer than 10 students enrolled annually and fewer than 5 students in each of the past two academic years; and

**WHEREAS**, CAATE accreditation standards require a minimum of three full-time faculty to sustain the program; and

**WHEREAS**, the program is not projected to meet State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) viability requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed discontinuance is consistent with Radford University's Curriculum Lifecycle policies and processes;

**WHEREAS**, arrangements will be made to ensure that any currently enrolled students are provided with an appropriate opportunity to complete their program of study;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors of Radford University approves the discontinuance of the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) and its removal from the University's degree inventory;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President and/or his designee(s) are hereby authorized to submit all required documentation to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to obtain approval for the discontinuance of the program.



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# Faculty Senate Update

June 4, 2026

Dr. Matthew Close

Immediate Past President of the Faculty Senate

Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors

# Curriculum



## Curriculum Motions

- **~30 of the 50 FS motions this year were curriculum-related motions**
- **Additional policy recommendations from Academic Policies and Procedures Committee reviewed and commented**
  - **Post-humous degree policy**
  - **Academic Advising Policy**

# Resource Allocation



## ➤ Faculty Travel Survey

- For most faculty (TT and NTT), professional conferences are either strongly encouraged or required
- Current funding levels are below needs
- This will need to be something we work on as an institution

# Faculty Issues & Campus Environment



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## **FIC**

- Handbook Language Recommendations

## **Campus Environment**

- Presented results of COACHE Survey to campus community, received feedback from campus community
- Revised and Conducted 2025-2026 Faculty Morale Survey

# Governance



## University Internal Governance Review Committee (2025-2026)

- **25-26.42: Motion to Accept Changes to the University Internal Governance Review Committee (UIGRC)**
- **25-26.43: Motion to Accept Changes to the Overview of Shared Governance at Radford University**
- **25-26.47: Motion to Approve the Formation of a University Policies Committee**



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Questions?

# Minutes



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**RADFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2025  
KYLE HALL ROOM 340  
RADFORD VA**

**DRAFT  
MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair  
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout  
Ms. Joann S. Craig  
Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet  
Dr. Matthew Close

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost  
Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President  
Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education  
Ms. Penny Helms White, Vice President for Advancement and University Relations Communication  
Dr. Dannette Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications  
Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Additional Radford University administrators, faculty, and staff

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 8:59am in Kyle Hall Room 340 on the campus of Radford University.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the March 19, 2026, agenda. Ms. Joann S. Craig so moved, Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve December 4, 2025, minutes. Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout so moved, Ms. Joann S. Craig seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES**

- Provost Usher started the meeting by highlighting President Danilowicz's star presentation at the State Council of Higher Education meeting in January, which culminated in the SCHEV Board approving our new Mission statement.
- Academic Affairs's strategic direction is aligned with the University's strategic plan, and the division will be focused on five priorities over the next six years:
  - Developing a strategic curricular portfolio
  - Improving student success
  - Ensuring Experiential and Work-based learning opportunities
  - Fostering multi-disciplinary and community collaborations
  - Supporting thriving faculty and staff
  - Underlying all of these priorities is a plan to use technology and data wisely to improve outcomes
- **Developing a strategic curricular portfolio**
  - Development of the new General Education portfolio is underway, and Faculty Senate President Matt Close also gave an update on the design and implementation process.
  - Several programs are awaiting the SCHEV approval step
  - SCHEV has approved a new Program Productivity Policy, and Dr. Usher discussed the implications for Radford.
  - Radford is recognized for our program excellence by having many Academic Affairs members on accreditation panels.
  - The Master of Health Administration has earned coveted accreditation by CAMHE
  - Radford University has been recognized by the Carnegie Classification as an Opportunity College/University, meaning that we offer access to many students and have strong outcomes
  - Radford is also recognized as a Voter-Friendly campus for our non-partisan civic and electoral engagement efforts
- **Improving Student Success**
  - Fall-to-Spring retention rose to the highest rate in year- 93% of first-time in college returned for spring classes, and 95% of all undergraduate students either re-enrolled or graduated.
  - We are also slightly higher in headcount for spring than the last three years.
  - Despite a more complicated hiring picture this spring, 92% of graduating students had positive career outcomes 6 months after graduating.
  - Last minute update for Graduate Students:
    - 1537 Enrolled this semester; the average ages is 35 and the majority are female, part-time students
    - Because they are part-time, many stop for a semester-more students step out for the spring semester than the fall semester. About 90% of the students who step out re-enroll the following semester.
    - Persistence rates
      - Masters: 93%
      - Doctoral: 88%
    - On-time graduation rates

- Masters: 84%
  - Doctoral: 84%
- **Ensuring Experiential and Work-based Learning Experiences**
  - We have a series of Points of Pride, including internships, student research excellence, study abroad experiences, and awards.
- **Fostering Multi-disciplinary and community collaboration**
  - Radford University is developing a Health Science strategy that is inclusive of both campuses and many colleges. There are two main aspects:
    - Academic Programs in Primary, Allied, and Mental Health, with a goal of Radford being recognized as the premier destination for healthcare education and talent
    - Center for Rural Health, supporting both the health career pipeline and community collaborations for education, clinical practice, research, and service; with the goal of improving the health and well-being of rural and underserved communities
    - These collaboration and experiential education are seen in the Interdisciplinary Health Science Events, including “Disaster Day,” and the Interprofessional Education Case Study Event
- **Supporting Thriving Faculty and Staff**
  - Held a Chair’s Leadership Institute with support of the Association of State Colleges and Universities in January (24 chairs and directors attended)
  - Faculty are active in scholarship, with publications spanning creative writing to health care journal articles
  - RadTalks continue to bring the scholarship of our faculty to the community
  - We are happy to welcome Dean Jeff Aspelmeier (ASS-pel-meyer) as the permanent Dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences and enjoyed meeting his faculty and students in the tour of Hemphill Hall

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

- Provost Usher discussed the process of faculty promotion and tenure.
  - She announced the Promotion of 22 faculty and librarians (Attachment A)
  - BOV to vote on motion to award tenure to 10 outstanding faculty across all seven colleges (Attachment B).

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to award tenure to faculty. Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout, so moved, Ms. Joann S. Craig seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## **FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Dr. Matthew Close, President of Faculty Senate, delivered updates.

- Dr. Close gave a GenEd Implementation Update
- He talked about the University Internal Governance Review Committee (UIGRC), sharing that proposals for creations of and modifications to the internal committees are in the final approval stages.

- There were no handbook changes or Governance Motions that needed to be approved this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:41am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Montgomery  
Executive Assistant to the Provost &  
Sr. VP for Academic Affairs

# End of Board of Visitors Materials

