

Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

March 2026



Radford
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Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee
9:45a.m.**
March 19, 2026
Kyle Hall, Room 340, Radford, VA

DRAFT
Agenda

- | | |
|--|---|
| Call to Order | Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair |
| Approval of Agenda | Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair |
| Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">o December 5, 2024 | Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair |
| o Presentation | |
| o Academic Affairs Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Strategic Priorities | Dr. Bethany M. Usher, <i>Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs</i> |
| o Informational Item <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Promotion of Faculty (Attachment A) | Dr. Bethany M. Usher, <i>Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs</i> |
| o Recommendations and Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Tenure of Faculty (Attachment B) | |
| o Faculty Senate Update | Dr. Matthew Close, <i>Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors</i> |
| o Other Business | Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair |
| o 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



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Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

Bethany Usher

Provost and Senior Vice President

Academic Affairs

March 19, 2026



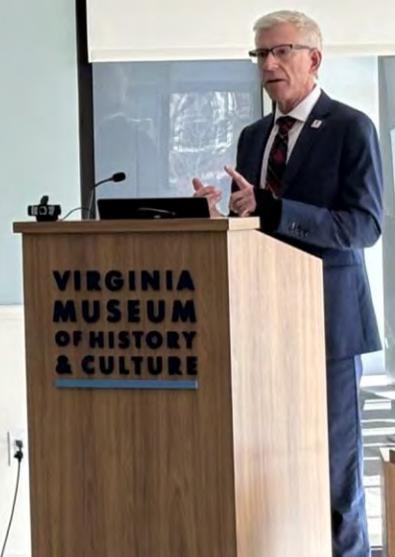
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Agenda

- Points of Pride
- Strategic Plan
- Information Item: Promotions
- Action Items: Faculty Tenure
- Questions and Conversation



Points of Pride



Radford University Presentation and Mission approval at SCHEV Council

The logo of Radford University is a red shield with a white border, positioned in the center of the slide. The text is overlaid on the shield and the background.

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

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.

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)



Curriculum Lifecycle and Academic Portfolio Evolution

Programs in Development

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

Degree Program
Conceptualized;
Curriculum
Designed



Program and
Curriculum
Approved

Awaiting BOV approval
none

Awaiting SCHEV approval

- BS Geospatial and Earth Sciences
- BS Applied Biotechnology
- MS Clinical Psychology

SCHEV approved

- Graduate Certificate Nursing Education

Curriculum
Updated and
Refreshed

Program Taught

Awaiting BOV approval
none

Awaiting SCHEV approval

- BS Biomedical Science
- BS Geology
- BS Geospatial Sciences

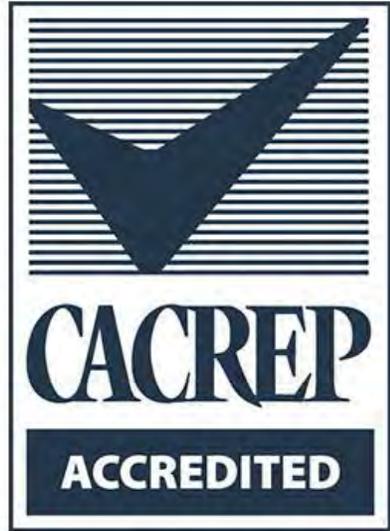
Program
Discontinued



Program and
Student Learning
Outcome
Assessment



Accreditations



- Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.S. degree)
- School Counseling (M.S. degree)



Nursing Associate Dean Christi Callahan selected as Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Accreditation Evaluator



Commission on Accreditation
of Healthcare Management Education

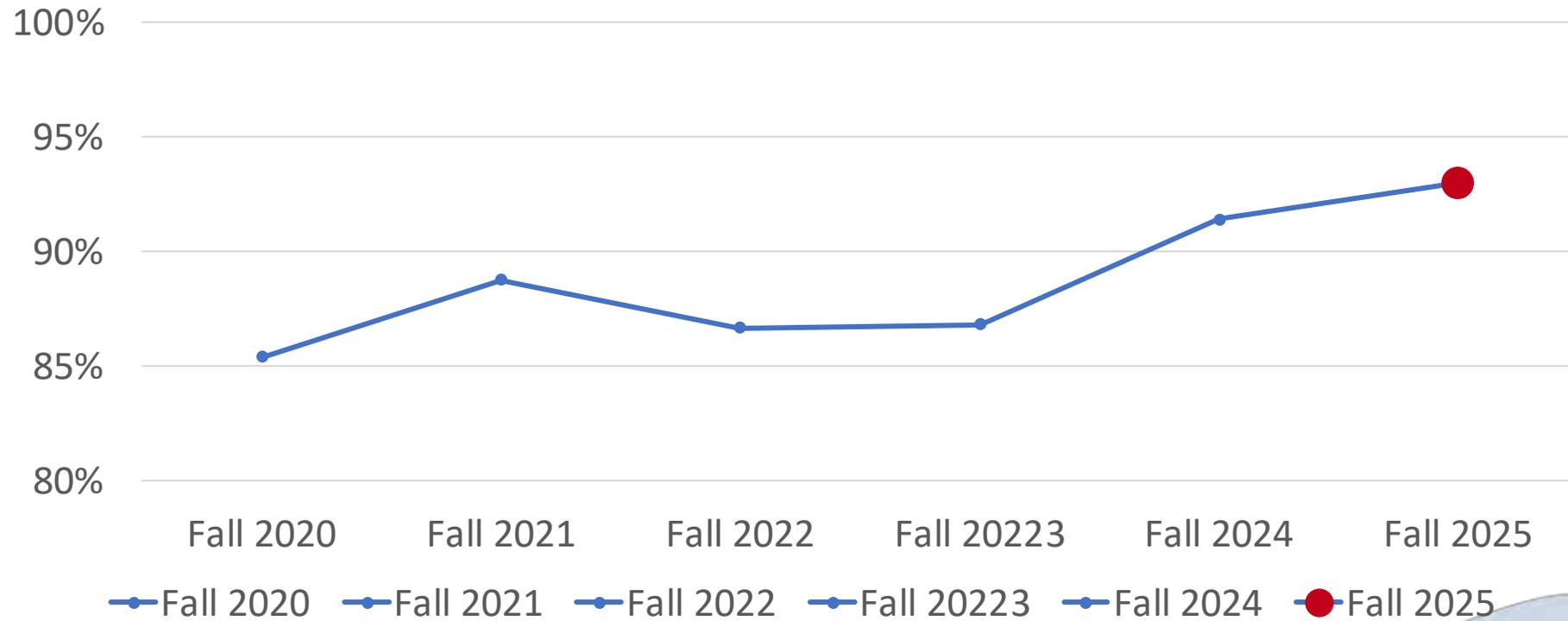
Master of
Healthcare
Administration
(MHA)



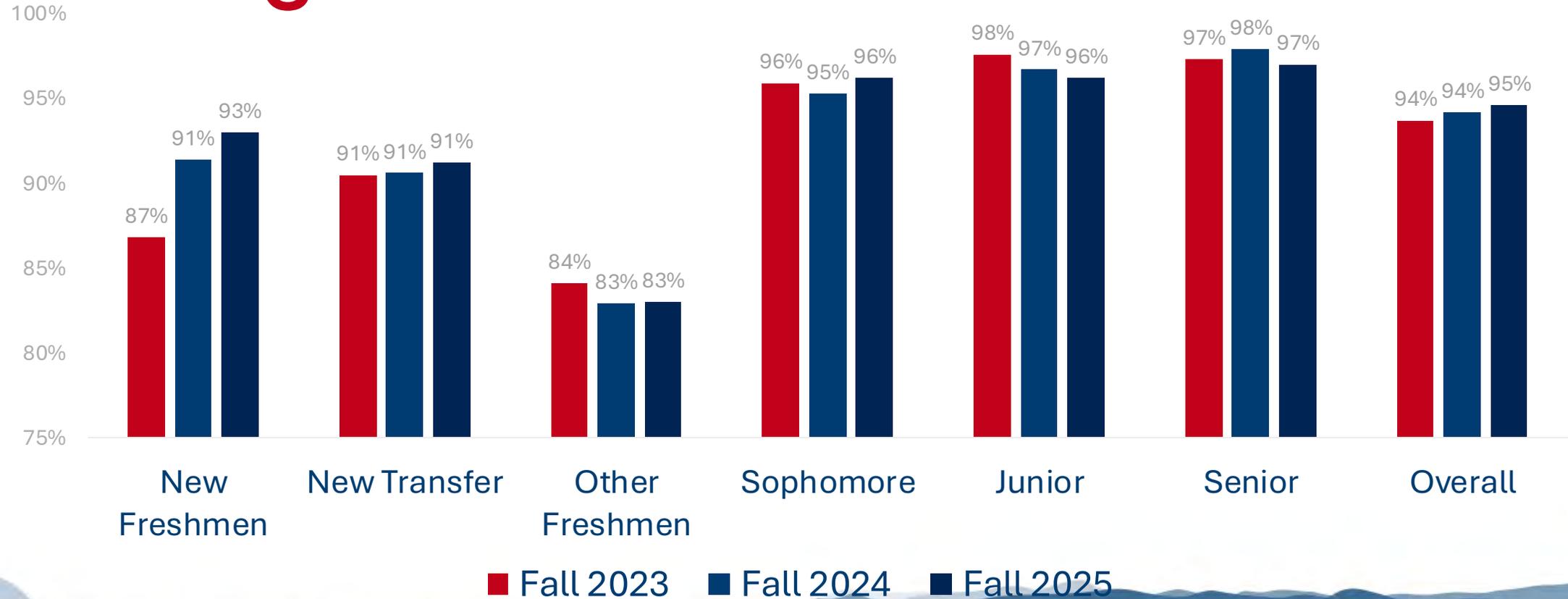


Improve Student Success

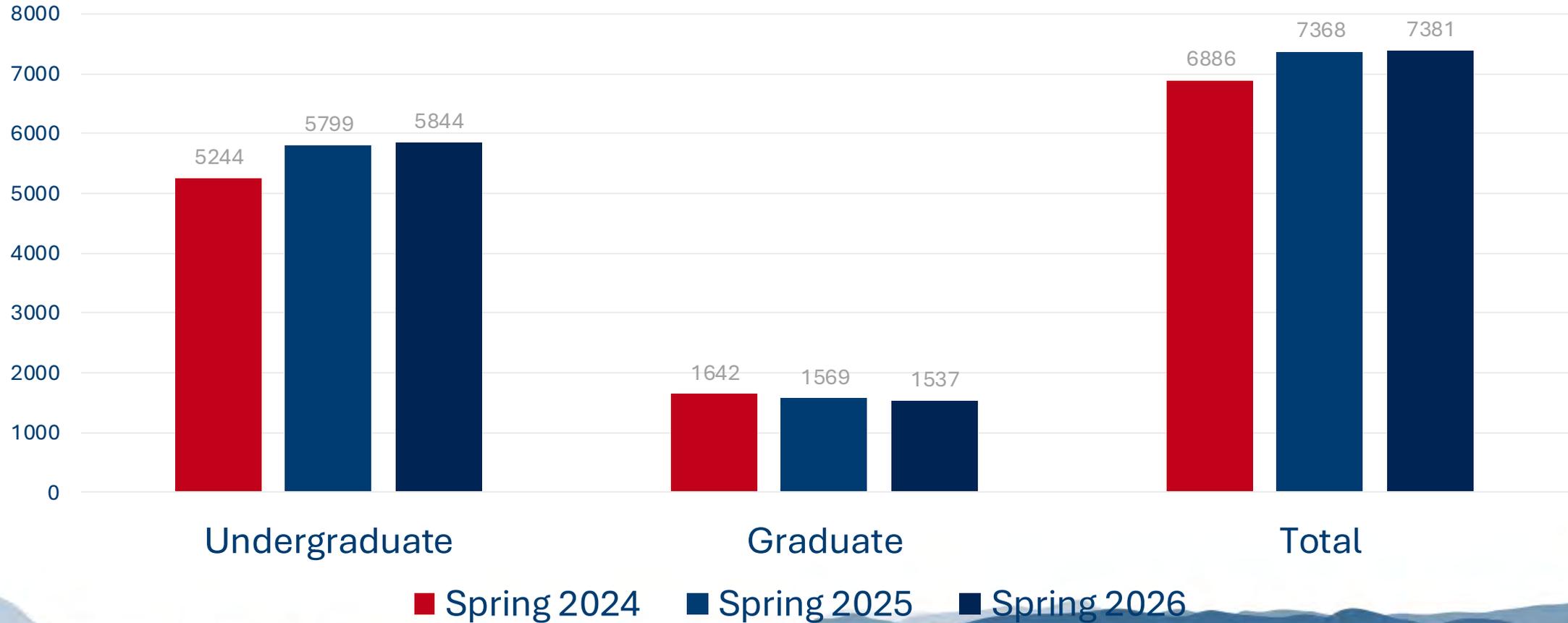
First-Time-in-College Fall-to-Spring Retention= 93%



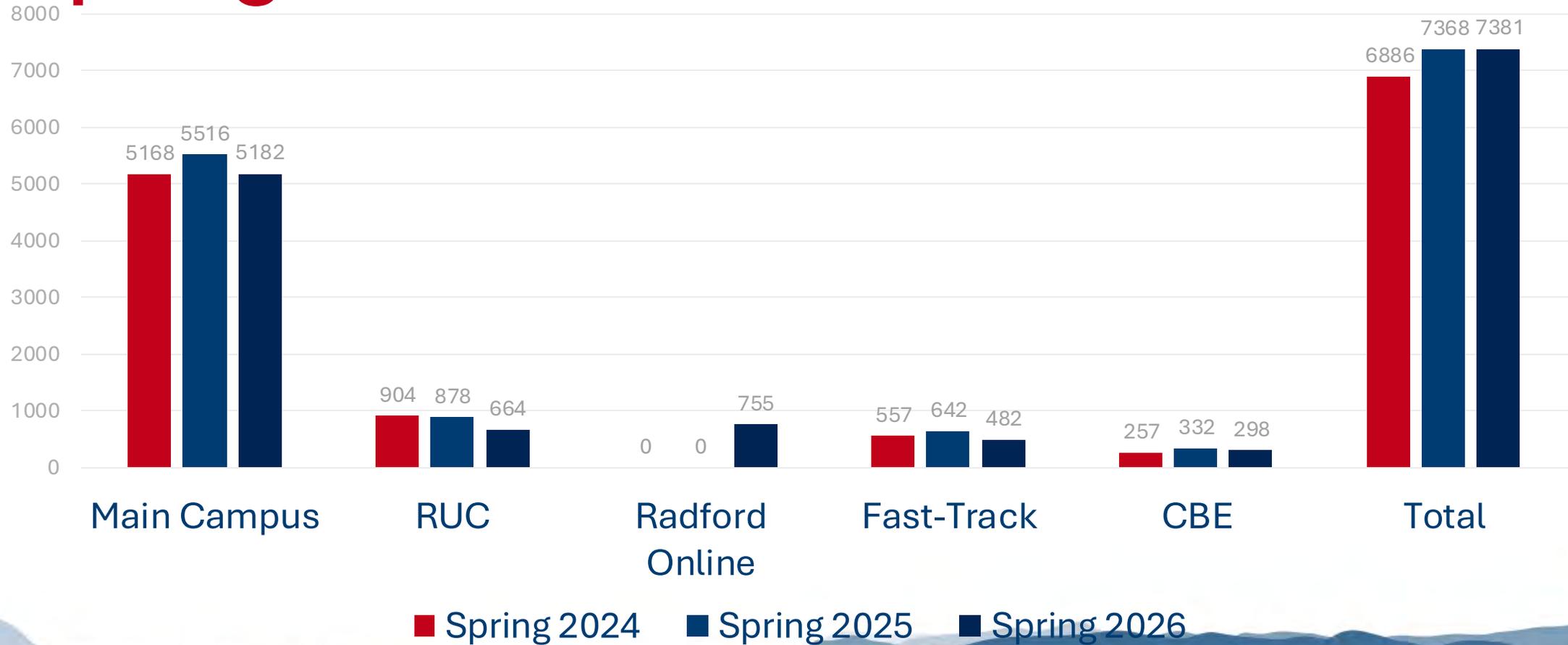
Spring 2026 Fall-to-Spring Undergraduate Retention



Spring 2026 Student Headcount



Spring 2026 Student Headcount



First Destination Career Outcomes Class of 2025

92%

Employed,
Continuing education,
Military

Knowledge Rate:
74.5% (1416 / 1901)



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Ensure Experiential and Work-based Learning Opportunities

CVPA Graphic Design Excellence



Gold Student ADDY® Awards

Isabella Walsh

Gabrielle Praton

Sliver Student ADDY® Award

Lawson Hamilton

Alexandra Rodriguez

Lee August

Klair Roark

Wendy Marshall

Isabella Walsh

Faculty pictured here: Kenneth Smith and John O'Connor (retired)



Radford Students Showcased in Richmond



Undergraduate Research Showcase at the Capital Kayla Fields, mentored by Naveen Joseph; and Therese Root and Kristina Wagner, mentored by Morgan Montañez; with OURA Director Joe Wirgau, President Danilowicz, and Lisa Ghidotti



Paige Dickerhoof, MS Psych selected as a Summer 2026 Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Policy Fellowship Fellow



Spring Break means research trips!



Professors Ryan Sincavage and Parv Sethi (Geospatial and Earth Sciences) leading 16 students enrolled in Regional Geology of the United States on spring break research trip to western National Parks



The Artic Geophysics Student Research Group, led by Professor Rhett Herman (Physics), in Utqiagvik, Alaska.

Council on Undergraduate Research Scholars Transforming through Research teams, led by Professors Carlee Bradbury and Naveen Joseph, in Washington, DC.



Experiential & Work-Based Learning

Virginia Farm Bureau – Radford University inaugural Externship Program and Experiential Learning initiative

The Highlander Works grant program is supporting 31 students this spring helping to defray the costs associated with internships and work-based learning experiences

New Archives & Special Collections Internship Program

OURS support for UG students presenting at conferences is up 60% from last year and the highest since COVID.

Study-Abroad (9) & Study Away (2) Programs headed out Spring & Summer



Foster Multi- Disciplinary and Community Collaboration

Interdisciplinary Health Science Events



Educational Disaster Simulation

Educational Disaster Simulation

Disaster Day was planned by Dr. Karen Valcheff (Nursing) and Mr. Peter McCann (Emergency Management). Carilion Clinic, Montgomery Fire & Rescue, 87 students participated.



Interprofessional Education Case Study Event, organized by Dr Jenny Hall (Waldron College) involved 230 students, 19 moderators, and 10 support staff, from 13 disciplines across Radford.



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

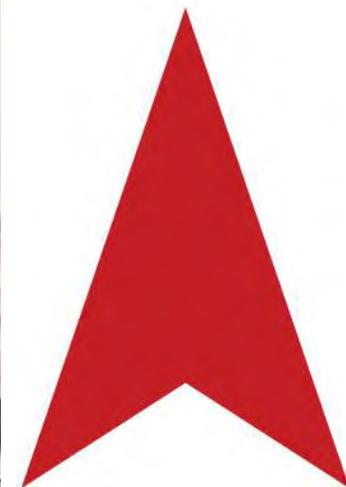




Support Thriving Faculty and Staff

Chairs Leadership Institute

in partnership with AASC&U



Faculty Impact

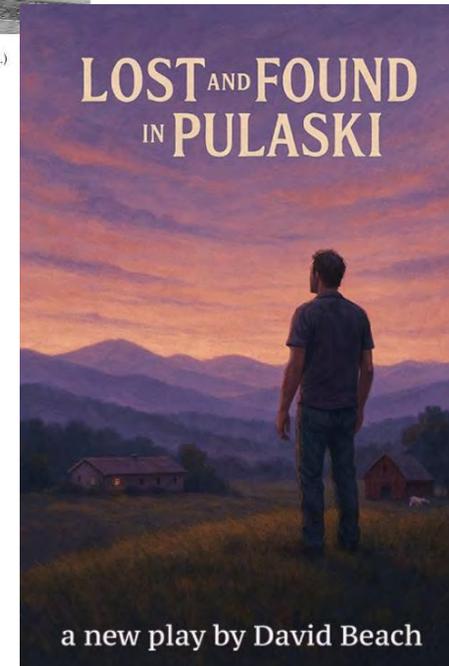
A short story by Rick Van Noy

Rick Van Noy is the author of four books, including *Borne by the River: Canoeing the Delaware from Headwaters to Home* (Cornell 2024) and *Sudden Spring: Stories of Adaptation in a Climate-Changed South* (Georgia 2019). He is a professor of English at Radford University.



(Photos, by Rick Van Noy, show abandoned homes in rural areas of Virginia.)

Trespassing



Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology (2025) 40:889–901
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-025-09770-6>

RESEARCH

“Beneficial” or “Career Ending?” Officer Discussions of Mental Health and Wellness Services

Katy Hancock¹ · Stacey Clifton²

Accepted: 4 August 2025 / Published online: 16 August 2025
 © The Author(s) 2025

Abstract
 POLICE PRACTICE AND RESEARCH
 2025, VOL. 26, NO. 5, 832–847
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2025.2452642>

Check for updates

Where’s the help when you need it? Examining accessibility to mental health resources among law enforcement

Stacey Clifton^a and Katy Hancock^b

^aStacey Clifton, Department of Criminal Justice, Radford University, Virginia, USA; ^bKaty Hancock, Department of Criminal Justice, Radford University, Virginia, USA

Crime Stories: Assessing the Effects of Crime-Related Media on Support for Police

Jason T. Callahan^a & Stacey A. Clifton^b

Received 19 Aug 2024, Accepted 24 Jan 2025, Published online: 08 Feb 2025

Cite this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511253.2025.2460799>

Full Article | Figures & data | References | Citations | Metrics | Reprints & Permissions | Read Full Article

Are you satisfied? An examination of law enforcement job satisfaction, job

Abstract
 PIJPSM
 48,2

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

The Journal for Nurse Practitioners

journal homepage: www.hnpjonline.org

Case Report

The Underlying Cause of Abdominal Pain in a Healthy Adult

Sara Nicely

ABSTRACT

Keywords:
 abdominal pain
 adult
 coagulopathy
 portal vein thrombosis
 polycythemia vera

This case report details a young female patient with no significant past medical history who presented with vague but severe abdominal discomfort. Extensive assessment revealed portal vein thrombosis as the cause of the patient’s symptoms. Laboratory evaluation was positive for a JAK2 V617F (Janus kinase 2 [JAK2]) mutation that led to the diagnosis of polycythemia vera that caused this unexpected finding in the otherwise healthy patient. A clinician must have sufficient knowledge of coagulopathic disease and presenting signs and symptoms of polycythemia vera to rapidly diagnose and manage a patient at risk of devastating thrombosis and repeat thrombotic events.

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PHYSIOTHERAPY THEORY AND PRACTICE
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09593985.2026.2615385>

RESEARCH REPORT

Exploring the role of experiential learning in shaping physical therapy student self-efficacy for neurologic practice: A mixed methods study

Martha D. Cullaty PT, DHSc, MT^a, Jenny Hall EdD, MCHES^b, David Halpin PhD^b, and Lisa Allison-Jones PhD, MSN, RN^b

^aMurphy Deming College of Health Sciences, Mary Baldwin University, Fishersville, VA, USA; ^bDepartment of Public Health and Healthcare Leadership, Waldron College of Health and Human Services, Radford University Carilion, Roanoke, VA, USA

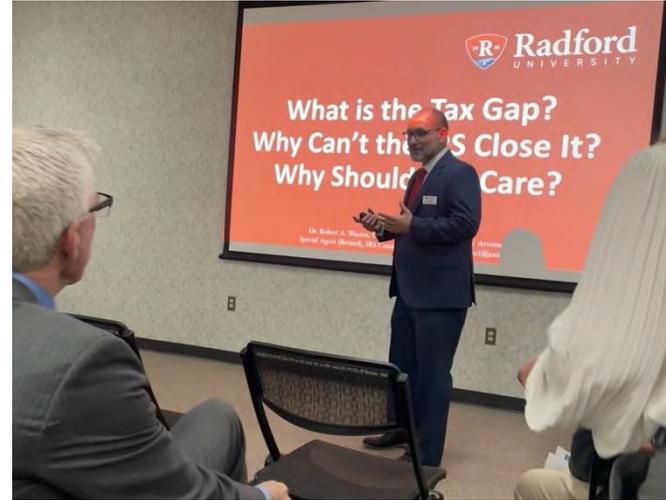
ABSTRACT
 Self-efficacy, one’s confidence in performing a task, is a key determinant of performance. This study explored the role of experiential learning in shaping physical therapy student self-efficacy for neurologic practice. A mixed methods study was conducted. Data were collected from a survey and focus groups. The results of the study indicate that experiential learning significantly impacted self-efficacy for neurologic practice. The findings suggest that experiential learning is an effective method for enhancing self-efficacy in physical therapy students. The study also identified factors that influence self-efficacy, such as the quality of the experiential learning experience and the support of faculty and peers.

ARTICLE HISTORY
 Received 22 September 2025

Radford Faculty and Staff in the Community



Dean Donna McCloskey
keynoting Montgomery County
Chamber of Commerce
Women's Leadership
Conference



Assistant Professor Robert
Warren discussing the "Tax
Gap" at Radford Public Library
in the RADTalks series



Associate Professor Jenny Hall
featured in *Ticks Are Thriving in
Southwest Virginia. Here's What
That Means for Your Health*
feature story



Academic Affairs Leadership

Artis College of
Science and
Technology
Dean
Steven Bachrach

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

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

Academic Affairs
Associate Provost
Jeanne Mekolichick

University
Registrar
Katie Piper

College of
Humanities and
Behavioral Science
Dean
Jeff Aspelmeier

Waldron College of
Health and Human
Services
Dean
Kenneth Cox

Executive
Assistant to the
Provost
Karen Montgomery

Student Success
Assistant Provost
Jerel Benton

Health Sciences
*Assistant Vice
President*
Active Search

College of Nursing
Dean
Wendy Downey

Finance and
Administration
Director
Adam Neal

Curriculum and
Academic Quality
Assistant Provost
Jessica Stowell

Radford Online
*Assistant Vice
President*
Active Search

Graduate Affairs
Assistant Provost
Agida Manizade



Informational and Voting Items

Information Item: 2026-2027 Faculty Promotions

Artis College of Science and Technology

Sarah Kennedy (Chemistry), Professor
Nathaniel Lahn (Computing/Info Science),
Associate Professor
Miodrag Lovric (Mathematics & Statistics),
Professor

College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

Lindsay Semprevivo (Criminal Justice),
Professor

College of Education and Human Development

Melissa Lisanti (Teacher Education and
Leadership), Professor

College of Nursing

Samantha Wilkinson (Graduate Nursing),
Associate Professor
Tara Chitwood (Undergraduate Nursing),
Associate Professor
Sarah Knoeckel (Undergraduate Nursing),
Associate Professor
Karen Valcheff (Undergraduate Nursing),
Associate Professor

Davis College of Business and Economics

Jennifer Elias (Economics), Senior Instructor
Robert Warren (Accounting, Finance &
Information Systems), Associate Professor
Zachary Collier (Management), Associate
Professor

University Libraries

Alyssa Archer (McConnell), Professor

Anthony Pepper(McConnell), Assistant
Professor

Jennifer Resor-Whicker(McConnell), Professor
Barbara Tait(McConnell), Assistant Professor
Christina Manzo(RUC Library), Associate
Professor

Jamie Price(RUC Library), Associate Professor
Mary Catherine Santoro(RUC Library),
Associate Professor

Waldron College of Health and Human Services

Diana Willeman-Budkelew (RUC Public
Health & Healthcare Ldshp), Associate
Professor

Andrea Barrick (Social Work), Associate
Professor

Jason Browning (RUC Occupational Therapy),
Associate Professor

Board Action Item

2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations

Artis College of Science and Technology

Nathaniel Lahn (Computing & Information Science)

College of Education and Human Development

David Brock (Health & Human Development)

Behavioral Sciences

Lindsay Semprevivo (Criminal Justice)

College of Nursing

Sarah Knoeckel
(Undergraduate Nursing)

Karen Valcheff
(Undergraduate Nursing)

Davis College of Business and Economics

Robert Warren (Accounting, Finance & Info Systems)

Zachary Collier (Management)

Waldron College of Health and Human Services

Diana Willeman-Buckelew
(Health & Healthcare Leadership)

Andrea Barrick (Social Work)

Questions and Conversation

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2026**

2026-2027 PROMOTIONS WITH SALARY INCREMENTS

The following faculty members have been recommended for promotion by their respective Department Promotion Committees, Department Chairs, and College Deans and approved by the Provost and President.

ARTIS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>
Sarah A. Kennedy	Professor	Department of Chemistry
Nathaniel Adam Lahn	Associate Professor	School of Computing & Information Sciences
Miodrag Lovric	Professor	Department of Mathematics & Statistics

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>
Melissa W. Lisanti	Professor	School of Teacher Education & Leadership

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>
Lindsay Semprevivo	Associate Professor	Department of Criminal Justice

COLLEGE OF NURSING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>
Samantha M. Wilkinson	Associate Professor	Nursing (Graduate)
Tara D. Chitwood	Associate Professor	Nursing (Undergraduate)
Sarah Faith Knoeckel	Associate Professor	Nursing (Undergraduate)
Karen L. Valcheff	Associate Professor	Nursing (Undergraduate)

DAVIS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>
Robert A. Warren	Associate Professor	Department of Accounting, Finance & Information Systems
Jennifer Elias	Senior Instructor	Department of Economics
Zachary A. Collier	Associate Professor	Department of Management

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>
Alyssa Michelle Archer	Professor	McConnell Library
Anthony Joseph Pepper	Assistant Professor	McConnell Library
Jennifer Resor-Whicker	Professor	McConnell Library
Barbara Allie Tait	Assistant Professor	McConnell Library
Christina M. Manzo	Associate Professor	RUC Library
Jamie B. Price	Associate Professor	RUC Library
Mary Catherine Santoro	Associate Professor	RUC Library

WALDRON COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>
Diana Willeman-Buckelew	Professor	RUC – Department of Public Health & Healthcare Leadership
Andrea Suzanne Barrick	Associate Professor	School of Social Work
Jason Todd Browning	Associate Professor	RUC - Department of Occupational Therapy

It has been the practice of Radford University to recognize faculty promotions at the beginning of the next academic year with a salary adjustment according to rank. The following increments were approved by you and are recommended for 2026-2027 academic year.

Promotion to Senior Instructor	\$1,500
Promotion to Assistant Professor	\$3,500
Promotion to Associate Professor	\$5,500
Promotion to Professor	\$8,000

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2026**

RESOLUTION OF TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, the tenure-track faculty are appointed initially on one-year contracts and throughout the probationary period, which is normally six years, they are subject to reappointment annually upon recommendation by the Department Personnel Committee, the Department Chair, the College Dean, the Provost, and the President; and

WHEREAS, no later than the beginning of the fall semester of the sixth year of full-time appointment, tenure-track faculty are notified by their Department Chairs of their eligibility for consideration for award of tenure and candidates for tenure must submit to their Department Personnel Committees pertinent information regarding their qualification for tenure, including a statement justifying the granting of tenure, all past performance evaluations, including a summary of student evaluations and any peer evaluations, a current curriculum vita, and any other relevant documentation; and

WHEREAS, criteria for the award of tenure include: the continuing need for the individual's expertise; the individual's teaching effectiveness; effectiveness as an advisor; professional development; participation in University co-curricular activities; committee work; cooperation with colleagues; and contributions towards the objectives of the department, college, and University; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the candidate's achievement of the above criteria, the Department Personnel Committee submits its recommendation to the Department Chair, who in turn submits his or her recommendation to the College Dean. The Dean submits his or her recommendation to the Provost, and the Provost submits their recommendation in each case to the President. At each stage, the recommendation is added to the previous recommendations, and all are transmitted to the next level. Copies of each recommendation, together with justification, are sent to the faculty member, who has the right to appeal negative recommendations to the Faculty Grievance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the final authority for awarding or denying tenure lies with the Board of Visitors and all of the faculty members listed below have met the criteria for award of tenure;

ARTIS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Nathaniel Adam Lahn	School of Computing & Information Science

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
David William Brock	Department of Health & Human Performance

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Lindsay Kahle Semprevivo	Department of Criminal Justice

COLLEGE OF NURSING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Sarah Faith Knoeckel	Nursing (Undergraduate)
Karen L. Valcheff	Nursing (Undergraduate)

DAVIS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONI

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Robert Alexander Warren	Department of Accounting, Finance and Information Systems
Zachary Andrew Collier	Department of Mangement

WALDRON COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Diana Willeman-Buckelew	RUC-Department of Public Health & Healthcare Leadership
Andrea Suzanne Barrick	School of Social Work
Jason Todd Browning	RUC - Department of Occupational Therapy

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee recommends that the Board of Visitors approve the faculty Tenure recommendations listed above to become effective the beginning of the 2026-2027 academic year.



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Faculty Senate Update

March 19, 2026

Dr. Matthew Close, Faculty Senate President

GenEd Implementation Update



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High-Level Timeline (Original)

- Early Sept 2025: Form Steering Committee & Subcommittees
- Sept 2025 - Jan 2026: Curriculum & Assessment Phases
- Oct 2025 - Mar 2026: Technology & RADF 101 Development
- Feb 2026: Steering Committee Approval for Catalog Changes
- Spring 2026: Implementation Pilot & Advisor Training
- Fall 2026: Pilot RADF 101
- Fall 2027: Full Launch

GenEd Implementation Update



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High-Level Timeline (Current)

- ✓ Early Sept 2025: Form Steering Committee & Subcommittees
- Spring 2026: Curriculum & Assessment Phases
- Spring-Summer 2026: Technology & RADF 101 Development
- Spring 2026: Steering Committee Approval for Catalog Changes
- Summer 2026: Banner build, testing, and stakeholder training
- Spring 2027: Small-scale Pilot (curriculum refinement, RADF 101)
- Fall 2027: Pilot (logistics and enrollment pathway testing), Full launch

Governance



University Internal Governance Review Committee (2025-2026)

- Revisions to the shared governance document (UIGRC → senates)
- Proposals for creations of and modifications to internal governance committees (feedback received from committees → senates)
- Final approvals from UIGRC in May 2026

Governance



Governance Motions

- **25-26.31: Motion to Add a Standing General Education Committee to University Shared Governance**

Handbook



Handbook Motions (for future BOV consideration)

- No new items to report this meeting

Curriculum



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Curriculum Motions

- **25-26.19: Motion to Create the Graduate Certificate in Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling (passed)**
- **25-26.24 Motion to Remove the Navigate Your Journey Requirement from the General Education Program (passed)**
- **Motion 25-26.25: Create the Navigate Your Journey Graduation Requirement (Failed 12Y/26N/7A)**
- **25-26.28: Motion to Create the Graduate Certificate in Innovation**

Curriculum



Curriculum Motions

- **25-26.27 Motion to Delete Minors in Biology, Geometric Expression, and Information Systems**
- **25-26.28: Motion to Create the Graduate Certificate in Innovation**
- **25-26.29: Motion to Create the Minor in Decision Analytics**



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Questions?

Minutes



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**RADFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2025
KYLE HALL ROOM 340
RADFORD VA**

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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 9:48 am in Kyle Hall Room 340 on the campus of Radford University.

APPROVAL OF AGENA

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the December 4, 2025, agenda. Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout so moved, Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve September 11, 2025, minutes. Ms. Joann S. Craig so moved, Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Points of pride

- Provost Usher began by giving us a sampling of the Points of Pride in Academic Affairs this semester. Highlights included the College of Education and Human Development's Doctor of Education Program winning the Carnegie Program of the Year, support for student success and experiential learning, leadership in the Virginia Government Simulations, Health Education Outreach, the RADTalks symposia, Arts in the Community, Teaching with AI, and Tartan Transfer Summit.

Two-Year Plan Update

- Academic Affairs made great progress in the Two-Year Strategic Plan, with success in improving academic programming, stabilizing resources, and stabilizing enrollment. Significant accomplishments include:
 - Adoption of a new General Education program, to be implemented in Fall 2027
 - 81% of graduating students completing at least one high-impact experiential learning activity
 - Integration of Civil Discourse into the fabric of the institution, including Common Grounds conversations, annual speakers, and two Wake Forest Educating Character Grants that established the Center for Character and Public Impact
 - Shifts in academic programs to align with student interest, increasing efficiencies – including merging departments, ending underenrolled minors and a doctoral program.
 - Restructuring the Academic Affairs Leadership Team
 - Improved transfer pathways published (from 0 to 82)
 - Improved pass rates in 100 and 200 level courses
 - Improved First Time in College retention
 - Faculty to student ratio now and around 1 student to 18 faculty, faculty members stabilizing as student enrollment stabilizes
- Student Success (retention+graduation) is trending much better over the last five years, although there was some wobble in new freshmen and new transfers this year connected to changes in the admissions process.
 - Dr. Jerel Benton updated the committee on Retention and Graduation rates and what his team is doing to increase these rates.

Strategic Plan Goals

- Moving forward, Academic Affairs has been deeply involved in the development of the 2031 Strategic Plan. In the division, the top priorities for the next 6 years are:
 - Increase experiential learning
 - Foster additional multidisciplinary research collaborations

- Lead Southwest and Southside Virginia in supporting healthy communities and producing health care talent
- Developing Radford Online academic strategy and portfolio
- Developing and intentional, streamlined curricular portfolio
- Support faculty work life (Culture of Care)
- Academic Affairs is planning for expansion of health care mission, with a new mobile health clinic, hiring a new Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences, and development of a Center for Rural Health. All in addition to planning for a new Health Care education home in Roanoke (details on building planning in Finance presentation)
- Academic Affairs is being responsive to student and community needs, and to SCHEV's potential program productivity review, with the curriculum lifecycle process and committee.

Personnel Updates

- The Academic Affairs leadership team is almost complete, as searches are wrapping up for College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Dean, the AVP for Health Sciences, and the AVP for Radford Online. Dr. Agida Manizade was hired in the fall as the Assistant Provost for Graduate Affairs, completing a restructuring in that area.

Questions and Conversation

- Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet asked if we were forming a Rural Health Clinic.
 - We will have a Center for Rural Health within all the other areas to compliment programs that already exist
- Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet asked if the Mobile Health Clinic would perhaps turn into a permanent location.
 - This could be a possibility, however; we want to collaborate and be methodical about it.
 - President Danilowicz shared that there will be more information coming for this at the March BOV Meeting.
- Ms. Joann S. Craig asked for clarification on the Passport Office located within the University.
 - Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick stated that anyone, even the public, can use this service. You would need to make an appointment. They can do the passport pictures and well as the processing
 - Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet asked if the area Clerk of Courts were aware of this service because they could refer to our office. Provost Usher isn't aware if they have been notified or not but stated it wouldn't hurt for us to do more advertising about this service.
- Ms. Joann S. Craig asked about the funding for the Mobile Clinic
 - Funds are from Grants
- Ms. Joann S. Craig about 'other freshman' listed in the slide for Undergraduate Student Success: Retention and Graduation
 - Provost Usher explained that there are less than 200 students in this category. It comes from freshmen that do not get enough credits to move into the 'sophomore' category.

- Mr. William Davis, Co-Chair, wanted to know more about the Civil Discourse Activities
 - Some happened in classes (UNV100)
 - Helping faculty make teaching this easier through the help of CITL
 - Held an Open Forum on Oct 15, 2025, after questions from the “Coffee with the President” event.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution to discontinue B.S. in Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to discontinue B.S. in Biomedical Sciences. Mr. William Davis, Vice Chair, so moved, Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- Resolution to create B.S. in Geospatial and Earth Sciences Program
- Resolution to discontinue B.A./B.S. in Geology
- Resolution to discontinue B.A./B.S. in Geospatial Sciences

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve (as a block) the Resolution to create B.S. in Geospatial and Earth Sciences Program; Resolution to discontinue B.A./B.S. in Geology; Resolution to discontinue B.A./B.S. in Geospatial Sciences. Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet, so moved, Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

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

- General Education – Committee’s have been formed and they are meeting. They are on tract to complete their work in the Fall of 2027
- AI Core Team was formed in Summer 2025
 - They recommended the creation of two AI task forces. One for Research and Scholarship and the other for Reaching and Pedagogy
 - Goal: “Help departments, programs, colleges, and universities respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities artificial intelligence (AI) presents for courses, curricula, and higher education in general.”
- COACHE Report
 - The report was available Summer 2025
 - The results are being reviewed by Faculty Senate Campus Environment Committee and Assistant Provost for Faculty and Curriculum
- UIGRC (University Internal Governance Review Committee (25-26)
 - Quadrennial review of shared governance documents and processes
 - Concluded May 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to adjourn the December 4, 2025, Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee Meeting. Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet so moved, and Ms. Joann S. Craig seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.

End of Board of Visitors Materials

