Executive Committee

March 2026

Radford University

Executive Committee
8:00 a.m. **
March 20th, 2026
Dean's Conference Room
Kyle Hall, Third Floor, Radford, VA

DRAFT
Agenda

- **Call to Order** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
- **Approval of Agenda** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
- **Approval of Minutes** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
- **Committee Discussion** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
- **March 2027 Updated Meeting Dates** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
- **Bylaws Discussion and Vote** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
- **Closed Session** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
  Virginia Freedom of Information Act
  §2.2-3711(A) (1) and (8)
- **Other Business** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*
- **Adjournment** — Mr. Tyler Lester, *Chair*

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Mr. Tyler W. Lester, Rector
Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, Vice Rector
Dr. Betty Jo Foster, (AESSC)
Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, (EMBEC)
Ms. Jeanne Armentrout, (BAAC)
Ms. Betsy Beamer, (EEC)
Mr. David A. Smith, (SAAC)

Meeting Materials

Radford University

Executive Committee

A change is being proposed to the March 2027 meeting dates to better align with potential post season basketball play. Rather than meeting March 18 and 19, 2027 the quarterly committee meetings would be on March 11, 2027 and the full Board of Visitors quarterly meeting would be on March 12, 2027.

Minutes

Radford University

Radford University
Board of Visitors

Executive Committee
8:00 a.m.
December 5, 2025
Kyle Hall, Room 340, Radford, VA
DRAFT
Minutes

Board Members Present

Mr. Tyler W. Lester, Rector
Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, Vice Rector*
Mr. Dale Ardizzone
Ms. Jeanne Armentrout*
Ms. Betsy Beamer*
Dr. Betty Jo Foster*
Mr. David Smith*
*Appeared remotely due to winter weather storm.

Board Members Absent
None

Others Present
Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President
Dr. Ryan Bowyer, Chief of Staff
Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Executive Director of Government Relations
Ms. Susan Richardson, University Counsel
Ms. Susie Kuliasha, Senior Executive Assistant to the President

Call to Order

Rector Tyler W. Lester called the meeting to order at ~ 8:00 a.m. in Kyle Hall, 340.

Approval of Agenda

Rector Tyler W. Lester requested approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mrs. Betsy Beamer, was seconded by Dr. Betty Jo Foster, and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Rector Tyler W. Lester requested approval of the minutes from the September meeting. Mr. Dale Ardizzone said the draft minutes stated two board members (Ms. Callie Dalton and Mr. James C. Turk) were present and they were not. Vice Rector Gilbert said omissions from the draft minutes had been corrected. The correction was noted. A motion was made by Mrs. Betsy Beamer to approve the

September 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice-Rector Jennifer Wishon Gilbert and approved unanimously.

Executive Order 48 Resolution

Rector Tyler W. Lester referenced Executive Order 48 on Page 5 of the Executive Committee Packet. Under the executive order, Governor Youngkin directed the secretary of education, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), and the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV) to develop resources that will help local school divisions, colleges and universities prevent, track, report, and follow up on incidents of anti-religious bigotry. Rector Lester reminded the Board that all public schools are required to adopt resolution by the end of 2025. Rector Lester invited discussion of this resolution and there was none. A motion was made by Mrs. Betsy Beamer to approve the resolution, was seconded by Vice-Rector Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, and approved unanimously.

Committee Discussion

Report from the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee

Mr. David Smith, Chair, reported that the committee met on December 4. Goodwill and engagement through Student Affairs are very important to campus. Our approach is concise, appropriate, and Dr. Trageser's leadership is admirable. Work of the Student Government Association (SGA) continues in an upward trend and SGA President Owen Staff is very dedicated. Athletics is moving along with Fall sports wrapping up; student athletes are doing well in the classroom; and leadership of Director Robert Lineburg is much appreciated. Specific information regarding the December 4 meeting may be found in those committee minutes.

Report from the External Engagement Committee Report

Ms. Betsy Beamer, Chair, reported that the committee met on December 4. She presented highlights of external engagement and partnerships, noting *Outdoor Summit with Venture Works* (??) and *Unhoused*, a poster presented at Winter Card on December 4. Both are great examples of relationship building in our communities and Dr. Joyner's engagement is outstanding. Ms. Beamer gave updates on Advancement and Alumni Relations, citing appreciation for the many details related to donor societies. The report from Ms. White was excellent and alumni participation is very impressive. Specific details regarding both of these updates may be found in the committee minutes. No items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.
Meeting Dates for 2027

Rector Tyler Lester referred members to Page 7 of the meeting packet and noted the proposed dates: March 18-19, 2027; June 3-4, 2027; July 18-20, 2027 (retreat); September 16-17, 2027; and December 2-3, 2027. A motion to adopt was made by Dr. Betty Jo Foster and a second by Vice Rector Jennifer Gilbert.

Meeting Minutes Philosophy

President Bret Danilowicz introduced the topic and noted there are essentially two methods of capturing the minutes: verbatim, or transcript; or bullet, a high-level perspective. Dr. Bowyer invited board members to provide feedback regarding transcript style or a high-level perspective. Dr. Betsy Beamer recommended caution with brevity and to not compromise transparency. Rector Tyler Lester referenced the board of visitor website where a full board meeting can be viewed. He further stated that minutes are meant to be a summary, capturing the important takeaways, with a good base, and avoiding overload.

By-laws Discussion

Rector Tyler Lester reminded board members of a previous request to begin a process of periodic reviews of the By-laws. He expressed appreciation to all who provided feedback, adding today would be a time for

discussion. Ms. Susan Richadson has conducted a review of the By-laws, and reviewed feedback from the Board. Ms. Richardson reported a few minor word changes that do not coordinate with Virginia Code. Board comments include the following:

1) from Section 1A and electronic communication
2) from Section B and exemption to participation
3) two-year term limit of a faculty representative

Regarding numbers 1 and 2 above, Ms. Susan Richardson confirmed the language is from Virginia Code and recommended no change. Rector Lester asked for questions and comments; receiving none, Rector Lester noted that during the upcoming full board meeting, he will mention the legal issues raised.

Rector Lester said Mr. George Mendiola proposed five amendments with excellent detail regarding the structure of the By-laws and a more efficient flow.

Rector Lester referenced ongoing discussion regarding student representation on the Board and invited comments. Ms. Beamer referenced the process to elect a president of the student government association is held with the student body. Ms. Beamer continued with the importance of the Board of Visitors to maintain the chance to select the student representative to the Board. Members Foster, Gilbert, Smith, and Armentrout agreed the leadership opportunities are extremely important. Rector Lester noted alignment on this topic and moved it to a status of "defer."

A third item concerned structure of the executive committee, more specifically to not just include those appointed by the rector. Ms. Beamer said the committee chairs work hard to attain knowledge and make informed decisions and serve as members of the executive committee. Dr. Foster agreed that communication with committee members is vital. Mr. Smith added if others are permitted to attend meetings of the executive committee, transparency and inclusion exist and noted further noted he does not believe the process is broken.

The fourth item was term length for the rector and vice rector. A recommendation from Mr. Mendiola was to change to a two-year term in even-numbered years. President Danilowicz offered the following framing comment: there is a need to repair the challenge we had this year. President Danilowicz expressed caution with two-year terms and said while the concept makes sense, there is high risk in appointing someone you have just met. Ms. Armentrout agreed it is a good concept and aligning with board terms is a big challenge. Board Member Smith added "it" can limit the number of people to consider; a one-year term opens it up to everyone. Board Member Foster added it may be limiting when someone is putting themselves up to serve as rector and vice rector. Rector Lester said regardless of a final approach, a very good conversation about formalizing in the By-laws has begun.

Rector Lester noted the final recommendation from Board Member Mendiola is to have a board member serve as secretary. Following a question from Ms. Beamer, Ms. Susan Richardson noted this is not a requirement from Virginia Code. Following additional discussion among board members, it was agreed that more information would be required on this topic. Rector Lester noted the amendments submitted by Board Member Mendiola have been discussed.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Rector Lester adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Bowyer, Ed.D.
Chief of Staff

End of Board of Visitors Materials