



**RADFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING
June 4, 2026
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
Mr. Jack Davis
Dr. Matthew Close
Dr. Courtney Watson

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. Tricia Smith, Interim 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 9:18am 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 June 4, 2026, agenda. Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout so moved, Ms. Joann S. Craig seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve March 19, 2026, minutes. Ms. Joann S. Craig so moved, Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

- Provost Usher highlighted many points of pride for our students and faculty:
 - Dean Donna McCloskey of the Davis College of Business and Economics has an impact on Radford University as well as the Radford Community
 - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
 - Financial Success Center
 - Saxby's coffee shop will be run by students (in conjunction with Chartwell's)
 - Mock Trial Team
 - Ended season in to 20% nationally
 - Two Biology majors named Goldwater Scholars
 - Honors College graduates a record number of students (63)
 - Davis College Competitions
 - David College Innovation Challenge
 - American Marketing Association International Collegiate Conference
 - Radford College Fed Challenge (in Philadelphia)
 - RU opens CARES Mobile Health Clinic
 - In partnership with NRV Community Services, VA Dept of Health (NRV District) and Anthem HealthKeepers Plus
 - Grand Opening of Radford's Highlander Center for Character and Public Impact
 - We have just completed the second annual Summer Institute In Character and Public Impact Pedagogies which brings in community partners to talk about how our faculty and courses can best work with them for their and our students' benefit, how we can incorporate more problem/project/place-based learning into courses, and how we can incorporate more skillful habits (character) into the curriculum.
 - Associate Provost Jeanne Mekolichick named CUR Fellow
- **Developing a strategic curricular portfolio**
 - General Education
 - Curriculum lifecycle and Academic Portfolio
 - Health Sciences
 - Online Education
 - Graduate Education
 - CEHD
 - Hosted National History Day
- **Improving Student Success**
 - Fall to Fall retention – 82% (Overall Spring to Fall retention is 87%)
 - Quest Registrations – 1,561 (10 up from last year)

- Up trend in total graduates – 23% growth in total graduates over 3 years
- **Ensuring Experiential and Work-based Learning Experiences**
 - Record Engagement – 85% ExL and 83% WBL (went from 79% to 85% in the past year in ExL)
 - Undergraduate Experiential Exceeds Goal – 89% of undergraduates (our goal was 82%) participated in a research experience (up from 79% for the class of 2024)
 - Career ready and experiential education – Career Outcomes Rate: 92.22%, Knowledge Rate: 74.49%
- **Fostering Multi-disciplinary and community collaboration**
 - Healthy Lifespans equal or surpass Virginia benchmark
 - Held the first Health Care/Health Sciences Strategy meeting on campus. Hosted members from around the state.
 - Hired the new AVP Health Services, will start in August 2026
 - CARES Mobile Health Clinic opening
 - Highlander Center for Character and Public Impact opening
 - Radford Community Collaborations
 - RADS Talks
 - RU and Radford Reads
- **Supporting Thriving Faculty and Staff**
 - CUR Fellow – Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick
 - 2nd annual Academic Affairs Awards ceremony
 - Academic Affairs Leadership updates
 - Dr. Christine Small joins us as Interim Dean for Artis College of Science and Technology
 - Dr. Adam Barger, Assistant Vice President for Radford Online
 - Dr. Ashley Wells, Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

- Provost Usher discussed the process of Emeritus Faculty
 - Attachment A
- Provost Usher reviewed the action items
 - Changes to the T&R Handbook
 - Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve T&R Handbook change Section 4.1: College Governance. Mr. Jack Davis so moved, Mr. Jonathan Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.
 - Attachment B
 - Changes to the T&R Handbook
 - Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve T&R Handbook change 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. Mr. Jonathan Sweet

so moved, Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- Attachment C
- Recommendation to Approve the Discontinuance of the Master of Science (MS) in Data and Information Management (DAIM)
 - Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout so moved, Mr. Jack Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.
 - Attachment D
- Recommendation to Approve the Discontinuance of the Master of Science (MS) in Athletic Training (MSAT)
 - Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Jonathan Sweet so moved, Ms. Joann S. Craig seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Mr. Jonathan Sweet had a question regarding Quest and what the expectations were.

- Dr. Jerel Benton explained that it gives our students the opportunity to stay in a dorm, register for classes, get the 'paperwork' done before classes start, and to meet other students, staff and community members

Another question inquired more about what the Highlander Center for Character and Public Impact did.

- Provost Usher explained that it was funded by the Educating Character Initiative at Wake Forest University and Lilly Endowment, Inc., the **Highlander Center for Character and Public Impact** offers opportunities across the curriculum and our campuses to build the virtues and skills necessary to solving wicked problems and building more resilient and flourishing people, communities, and ecosystems.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

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

- Reviewed some of the progress that was made over the past year
- Talked about the Faculty Travel Survey
- Reviewed handbook edits
- Shared that the COACHE Survey results will be available next spring
- Talked about the updates to the University Internal Governance Committee

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

- Dr. Close was asked what he knew now after serving as FS President that he didn't know before
 - He stated that you are highly invested because you represent all faculty. Meeting with the President and the Provost regularly to discuss insights, activities, problems and advise helped to manage all the meetings and answer the questions he needed to.
 - He also said, "I want to make this a place that is hard to leave".

- Mr. Jonathan Sweet asked a question about the travel survey and how far off the mark the funding was. Dr. Close stated that faculty get between 900-1200 a year for travel and if they have to go on an international trip it could cost up to \$5,000.
 - Provost Usher stated that we are working on more opportunities for professional development travel funding.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:24am.

Respectfully submitted,

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