



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

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