

Student Affairs and Athletics Committee
2:00 p.m.
March 19th, 2026
Kyle Hall 340, Radford, VA
Minutes

Committee Members Present

Mr. David Smith, Chair
Ms. Callie Dalton
Mr. James Turk
Mr. Dale Ardizzone
Mr. Anthony Moore
Ms. Dominika Butler (Non-Voting Student Advisory Member)

Board Members Present

Mr. Tyler Lester, Rector
Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, Vice Rector
Mr. Dale S. Ardizzone
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout
Ms. Betsy D. Beamer
Ms. Joann Craig
Dr. Betty Jo Foster
Ms. Lisa Pompa
Mr. Jonathan Sweet
Ms. Mary Anne Holbrook
Mr. George Mendiola Jr.
Dr. Matthew Close (Faculty Representative)

Others Present

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President
Ms. Susie Kuliasha, Senior Executive Assistant for the Office of the President
Mr. Ryan Bowyer, Chief of Staff
Ms. Susan Richardson, University Counsel
Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Executive Director of Government Relations
Dr. Dannette Gomez-Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications
Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration and CFO
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Penny White, Vice President for University Advancement
Mr. Robert Lineburg, Athletics Director
Mr. Cory Durand, Associate Director of Athletics

Mr. Owen Starr, President, Student Government Association
Mr. Bruce Hayden, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
Ms. Tricia Smith, Associate Vice President for Student Life
Ms. Nancy Loosle, Associate Vice President for Campus Life RUC
Dr. Mecca Marsh, Interim Director, Fraternity & Sorority Life
Mr. Andrew Price, Director, Housing & Residential Life
Mr. Jerel Benton, Assistant Provost for Student Success
Mrs. Jeanne Mekolichick, Associate Provost, Academic Excellence
Mr. David Perryman, Associate Vice President, Strategic Communications
Mrs. Connie Phillips, Assistant Director, Budget Operations
Mrs. Laura Turk, Executive Director, Alumni Relations
Mr. Chris Strafford, Assistant Director, Financial Planning
Mrs. Margaret McManus, University Auditor
Mrs. Ashley Glover, SCHEV Student Representative

Call to Order

Mr. David Smith, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in Kyle Hall 340, Radford, Virginia, and welcomed attendees to the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the December 4th, 2025 meeting agenda as published. Mrs. Callie Dalton so moved, Mr. Dale Ardizzone second and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4th, 2025 committee meeting as published. Mr. James Turk so moved, Mrs. Callie Dalton second and the motion carried unanimously.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report

Mr. Owen Starr, President of the Student Government Association, provided an update on recent SGA initiatives and student engagement efforts. He highlighted the organization's participation in Advocacy Day in Richmond, Virginia, where students engaged with members of the General Assembly to advocate on behalf of Radford University and its student body.

Mr. Starr shared updates on SGA's strategic priorities, which include advancing legislative initiatives, strengthening collaboration with university leadership, and enhancing the student experience through feedback gathered from a recent student survey. He also noted preparations for upcoming SGA elections and efforts to ensure a smooth transition to the next Executive Team.

The SGA Senate continues to focus on initiatives related to the Syllabi Resolution, campus safety enhancements, sustainability efforts, and Sexual Violence Awareness programming scheduled for April. In addition, the SGA Cabinet is coordinating a variety of student engagement events, including Unity Fest, Safe Fun in the Sun, Earth Week activities, and the St. Patrick's Day Campus Clean-Up.

Mr. Starr also discussed ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the SGA Executive Staff, including strengthening social media outreach, revitalizing the SGA Newsletter, and reviewing the organization's constitution to better align position descriptions with current needs.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Student representatives Ashley Glover and Jake Weiss introduced themselves and provided an overview of their roles representing Radford University at the state level. They discussed the purpose and structure of the SCHEV Student Advisory Committee (SAC), which focuses on identifying key student issues, developing policy recommendations, and presenting findings to the SCHEV Council.

The representatives highlighted the work of SAC subcommittees focused on Student Finance, Workforce Readiness, and Student Belonging. They shared updates from recent meetings, including statewide discussions on higher education priorities, participation in the Virginia21 Presentation, and review of SCHEV reports, including the Food Insecurity Report.

Additional discussion included ongoing efforts within the Student Finance Subcommittee to address student time poverty, as well as survey initiatives from the Student Belonging Subcommittee examining student engagement and sense of belonging across campus populations. They also referenced initiatives such as the Pell Initiative for Virginia and continued coordination with state financial aid programs.

It was noted that Ashley Glover will represent Radford University in an upcoming SAC presentation to SCHEV, where findings and recommendations will be shared.

Student Affairs Report

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs, provided an update on the Division's progress toward its strategic goals, with a continued focus on process improvement and student employment.

Dr. Trageser reported increased student engagement across multiple programs and services, including a significant rise in participation in Outdoor Programs and positive outcomes from well-being initiatives at Selu Conservancy, where students reported reduced stress levels.

The Division has also made progress in streamlining administrative processes to better support student services and improve operational efficiency. Additionally, expanded professional development opportunities have strengthened staff capacity to support students and campus initiatives.

Dr. Trageser shared data demonstrating increased engagement among first-time and transfer students over the past three years, reflecting continued success in fostering student connection and belonging.

Updates were also provided on Radford University's participation in Advocacy Day in Richmond, highlighting student engagement with state legislators. The Division continues to align its efforts with the university's six-year strategic plan, Shaping Tomorrow – Together, with an emphasis on student engagement, career readiness, and well-being.

Dr. Trageser also noted that Andrea Sharpe and Jen Rentschler recently became Gallup-certified CliftonStrengths Coaches, which will support leadership development and student employment initiatives. Additional highlights included ongoing growth in Club Sports and Fraternity and Sorority Life, as well as continued prioritization of student mental health through programs such as Campus Calm Day and the Healthy Minds Survey.

Intercollegiate Athletics Report

Mr. Robert Lineburg provided an update on Intercollegiate Athletics, highlighting academic and competitive success, facility improvements, and NCAA-related developments.

Academic achievements included a 3.45 overall GPA for student-athletes, with 15 of 16 programs earning a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and 55% of student-athletes achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher. A total of 48 student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA, with Women's Golf leading all programs.

Updates were also provided on personnel and facilities, including the appointment of Andy Cormack as Head Coach for Men's Soccer and the completion of softball stadium renovations, which included a new turf field, scoreboard, and videoboard.

Competitive highlights included strong performances from Indoor Track & Field and both basketball programs, with multiple student-athletes earning conference honors and team successes in conference standings and postseason play.

Mr. Lineburg also discussed NCAA developments, including the House v. NCAA and Ray v. NCAA settlements, which will result in reductions to NCAA distributions to Radford University over multiple years. He noted the approval of corporate jersey patches beginning in August 2026 as a potential new revenue stream for athletics.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Galyean-Goff

Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs