

# **RADFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS BYLAWS**

## **PREAMBLE**

The Board of Visitors of Radford University (“the Board”) adopts these Bylaws to provide for the orderly, consistent and efficient conduct of its business as the governing body of Radford University (“the University”).

As public trustees the Board has the responsibility and authority, subject to constitutional and statutory limitations, for the continuing operation, development of evolving policies, and financial oversight of the University. Much of this authority necessarily is delegated to the President, who serves as the agent of the Board and as Chief Executive Officer of the University.

It is acknowledged and understood that the University and the Board are at all times subject to the control and legislative enactments of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## **Article I – The Board of Visitors**

### **Section 1 – Legal Status, Composition and General Operation**

**A. Legal Status and Composition.** The Board of Visitors of Radford University is created by Va. Code §23.1-2100. Membership of the Board, method and terms of appointment, and the method of filling vacancies are provided by statute (Va. Code §23.1-1300).

**B. General Operations.** The Board is required by law to, and does:

1. Strive to be transparent in its operations, and operate entirely openly to the extent required by law.
2. Comply with the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Freedom of Information Act (Code of Va. §2.2-3700, et seq.), including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Record minutes of each open meeting and post the minutes on the Board’s website in accordance with subsection I of §2.2-3707 and §2.2-3707.1;
  - b. Conduct all discussions and actions on any topic not specifically exempted by §2.2-3711 in open meeting;
  - c. Give public notice of all meetings in accordance with subsection D of §2.2-3707; and
  - d. Approve in open meeting any action taken in closed meeting before it can have any force and effect in accordance with subsection B of §2.2-3711.

3. Notify and invite the Attorney General's appointee or representative (the legal counsel of the institution) to all meetings of the Board, Executive Committee, and other Board committees.

**C. Annual Executive Summary.** The Board is required by statute to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual executive summary of its interim activity and work no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. This report shall be submitted in accordance with procedures stipulated by law.

**D. Removal of Board Members.** If any member of the Board fails to attend (i) the meetings of the Board for one year without sufficient cause, as determined by a majority vote of the Board, or (ii) the educational programs for governing boards presented by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and required by Virginia Code §23.1-1304 in the member's first two years of membership without sufficient cause, as determined by a majority vote of the board, the remaining members of the Board shall record such failure in the minutes at the Board's next meeting and notify the Governor, and the office of such member shall be vacated. (Virginia Code §23.1-1300(E))

In accordance with Virginia Code §23.1-1300(C), the Governor has the authority to remove from office for malfeasance, misfeasance, incompetence, or gross neglect of duty any member of the Board and fill the vacancy resulting from the removal. Each appointment to fill a vacancy will be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. The Governor will set forth, in a written public statement, the Governor's reasons for removing any member pursuant to this statute at the time the removal occurs. The Governor will be the sole judge of the sufficiency of the cause for removal as set forth in this statute.

**E. Resignation.** Any Board member may resign at any time by providing notice of the date of resignation to the Governor. Notice also shall be provided to the Rector so that the Board can take measures to accommodate said resignation. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in such notice and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary for it to take effect.

## **Section 2 – Powers and Responsibilities**

Responsibilities of the Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Control and expend funds of the University;
2. Establish fees, tuition, and other charges imposed on students;
3. Approve the University's budgets;
4. Appoint the President of the University;
5. Approve the strategic plans of the University;
6. Confer degrees;

7. Promote the purpose and mission of the University;
8. Adopt rules and regulations for governing employment and employees, and approve promotions, tenure, salaries of employees;
9. Name buildings and other major facilities;
10. Approve certain real property transactions; and
11. Adopt rules and regulations governing student conduct.

### **Section 3 – Meetings**

- A. Regular Meetings.** The Board meets in regular session four times each fiscal year, on dates established by the Board. The last regular meeting of each fiscal year is designated as the “annual meeting” of the Board.
- B. Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the Rector or upon the request of any five voting members of the Board. Requests for a special meeting must be submitted to the Secretary to the Board (“Secretary”), who has the ministerial responsibility for making arrangements for the special meeting.
- C. Notice.** Notice of meetings must be published and provided to the Board and the public by the Secretary in accordance with these Bylaws and state law.
- D. Quorum and Votes.** A simple majority of the Board constitutes a quorum. Unless otherwise required by statute, actions of the Board are taken by simple majority of those present and voting.
- E. Individual Member(s) Participation via Electronic Communications.**
  1. An individual member may also participate in a meeting via electronic communication means from a remote location that is not opened to the public in the event of a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member’s physical attendance; a medical condition of a family member that requires the board member to provide care and prevents the board member’s physical attendance; the member’s principal place of residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location identified in the required notice for such meeting; or, the member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter in accordance with the Code of Virginia §2.2-3708.3 and provided that:
    - a. If, on or before the day of the meeting, the member notifies the Rector that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to one of the provisions in E(1) above and, with regard to a personal matter, the member identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter. However, a member may not use remote participation due to personal matters more than two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

- b. The Board shall record the reason for the member to participate from a remote location, including the specific nature of any personal matter cited by the member as a basis, together with the remote location from which the member participates in the minutes of the meeting.
- c. The Board shall make arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary location.
- d. If any request for participation via electronic communication from a remote location is denied, the decision and rationale will be reflected in the minutes with specificity.

#### **F. All-Virtual Meetings.**

The Board and any of its committees separately may hold all-virtual public meetings in which all who participate do so remotely, provided that the Board follows the requirements in the applicable provisions of the Virginia Code.

- 1. The required public notice of the Board meeting will indicate whether the meeting will be an in-person or all-virtual public meeting along with a statement notifying the public that the method by which the Board chooses to meet shall not be changed unless the Board provides a new meeting notice in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-3707;
- 2. Public access to the all-virtual public meeting is provided via electronic communication means;
- 3. The electronic communication means used allows the public to hear all members of the Board participating in the all-virtual public meeting and, when audio-visual technology is available, to see the members of the public body as well. When audio-visual technology is available, a member of the Board shall, for purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails;
- 4. A phone number or other live contact information is provided to alert the Board if the audio or video transmission of the meeting provided by the Board fails, the Board monitors such designated means of communication during the meeting, and the Board takes a recess until public access is restored if the transmission fails for the public;
- 5. A copy of the proposed agenda and all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to members of a public body for a meeting is made available to the public in electronic format at the same time that such materials are provided to members of the public body;
- 6. If public comment is customarily received at the meeting if it were conducted in-person, the public is afforded the opportunity to comment through electronic means;

7. No more than two members of the Board are together in any one remote location unless that remote location is open to the public to physically access it;
8. If a closed session is held during an all-virtual public meeting, transmission of the meeting to the public resumes before the Board votes to certify the closed meeting;
9. The Board does not convene an all-virtual public meeting (i) more than two times per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, or (ii) consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting; and
10. Minutes of all-virtual public meetings held by electronic communication means are taken as required during a regular, in-person meeting and include the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held. If a member's participation from a remote location is disapproved because such participation would violate Board Bylaws, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.
11. The Board will apply the Individual Member(s) Participation via Electronic Communications and All-Virtual Meetings sections of the Board Bylaws strictly and uniformly, without exception, to all Board members without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting. A record will be kept of requests to use remote participation, and the approving or denying of the requests.

Before the Board uses all-virtual public meetings or allows members to use remote participation as described above, the Board shall at least once annually, by recorded vote at a public meeting, adopt Bylaws or a policy, that comply with the requirements of Virginia Code §2.2-3708.3(D).

**G. Agenda.** The draft agenda for each meeting is to be prepared by the President or the President's designee, and approved by the Rector. Matters that any member requests to be placed on the agenda should be brought to the attention of the President as far in advance of the meeting as possible. The President may assign a matter to the chair of the appropriate committee of the Board for review prior to placement on the Board agenda. The agenda and other meeting materials are to be made public as required by law, and delivered to each member of the Board as far in advance of the meeting as feasible.

Matters which arise after publication of the agenda may be placed on the agenda at the President's discretion, after consultation with the Rector, or by the Board's amendment of the agenda. The first order of business at every meeting is approval of the agenda. Proposed amendments to the agenda may be considered at that time.

**H. Tuition Notice and Public Comment.** In accordance with Code of Virginia, §23.1-307(D) and (E), Radford University will provide public notice at least 30 days prior to considering an increase undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees. The Radford University Board of Visitors will announce a public comment forum prior to the vote. The procedures for the Public

Comment Session are approved by the Board of Visitors and maintained on the Board of Visitors website.

## **Section 4 – Officers**

**A. Officers.** The officers of the Board are Rector and Vice Rector.

**B. Election and Terms.** The officers are elected by the Board at the annual meeting of the Board and shall serve a term of one year.

**1. Nominating Committee.** The Rector will appoint a Nominating Committee and designate the Chair of the Committee. The Committee is to call for nominations from members of the Board annually, following the last regular meeting of the Board. Nominations from members are to be submitted in writing to the Chair no later than ten days after that call. The Committee will meet prior to the annual meeting to determine which nominations will be presented to the Board. The Committee may offer more than one nominee for an office.

**2. Nominations from the Floor.** Nominations from the floor will be taken.

**3. Term.** Newly elected officers assume office on July 1 following their election. Each officer holds office for a term of one year ending the following June 30 or until the successor is elected, whichever is later. Officers may serve up to two consecutive terms; however, there is no limitation on the number of non-consecutive terms an officer may serve. In the event the Vice Rector assumes the office of Rector for a period of 180 days or more, that period will count as a full term.

**C. Rector.** The Rector is charged with promoting a level of interest, involvement and activity among the members of the Board as will best contribute to (1) the establishment of proper policies, (2) wise planning, (3) intelligent and considerate observance of the rights of the faculty, administration, staff, and student body, and (4) the maintenance of the independence of the Board, all of which will enhance the future welfare of the University.

Specific responsibilities include presiding at Board meetings; appointing all committees, unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws or directed by the Board; acting as the Board's primary spokesperson or representative; and performing such other duties as are generally expected of the presiding officer or are imposed by statute, Bylaws, or action of the Board.

**D. Vice Rector.** If the Rector is temporarily absent or unavailable, the Vice Rector presides over meetings and assumes all powers, duties and functions of the Rector. In the event of the death, permanent disability or resignation of the Rector, or should the Rector become otherwise permanently unable to perform the duties and functions of the office, the Vice Rector will become Rector for the remainder of the term, and a new Vice Rector will be elected.

## **Section 5 -- Advisory Representatives**

- A. Appointments.** The Board is to appoint one faculty member and one student as non-voting, advisory representatives to the Board. Representatives are appointed at the annual meeting which is the last meeting of the fiscal year, and serve one-year terms commencing July 1 following their appointment and ending June 30.

The faculty representative shall be the President of the Radford University Faculty Senate (Faculty Senate President), provided that said individual shall serve no more than two consecutive terms as faculty representative to the Board of Visitors. If the same individual shall serve more than two consecutive terms as Faculty Senate President, the faculty representative to the Board shall be appointed from a list of three faculty members submitted by the Faculty Senate. Should the faculty representative resign as faculty senate president during his/her term on the Board of Visitors, the new faculty senate president shall fill the remaining term on the Board of Visitors of the individual who resigned; in the event an individual assumes the role as faculty representative for a period of 180 days or more, that period will count as one full term.

The student representatives are appointed from a list of three students submitted by the President after consultation with appropriate members of the administration and such other individuals as the President deems necessary. The three nominees for student representative shall make a brief presentation to the Board of Visitors at the annual meeting at which the student representative will be appointed.

- B. Responsibilities.** Advisory representatives have the responsibility to support the best interests of the University and to work with members of the Board for the continuing operation and development of the institution as a comprehensive state university. They are expected to participate in all regular meetings of the Board. Each advisory representative will be appointed as a non-voting member of at least one standing committee, but may not chair a committee. Advisory representatives may submit agenda items for discussion and information to be considered by the Board by presenting them to the President in advance of meetings, but may not make motions or introduce new items at meetings. Advisory representatives may not attend closed meetings except by invitation of the Board.

## **Section 6 – Committees**

- A. Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee is comprised of the Rector, the Vice Rector, and the chairs of the standing committees. The immediate past Rector serves as an ex-officio member. The Rector serves as Chair of the Committee.

1. The Executive Committee is authorized and required to:
  - a. Organize the working processes of the Board;
  - b. Recommend best practices for Board governance;
  - c. Develop and recommend to the Board a statement of governance setting forth the Board's role;
  - d. Periodically review the Board's Bylaws and recommend amendments;

- e. Provide advice to the Board on committee structure, appointments, and meetings;
  - f. Develop an orientation and continuing education process for Board members that includes training on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;
  - g. Create, monitor, oversee, and review compliance by Board members with the University's Code of Ethics, adopted August 23, 2007, which Code is equally applicable to Board members as well as other members of the University community;
  - h. Develop a set of qualifications and competencies for membership on the Board for approval by the Board and recommendation to the Governor.
  - i. Conduct an annual evaluation of the President as required by these Bylaws in a closed meeting and present its findings and recommendations to the Board.
2. Additionally, the Executive Committee is authorized to convene and exercise the full power and authority of the Board between meetings of the Board whenever circumstances require immediate action to address matters of an urgent nature, or as the Board may otherwise direct.

A simple majority constitutes a quorum. In the event that a quorum is not present, other members of the Board may be appointed by the Rector to serve in the place of absent members on an ad hoc and temporary basis in order that a quorum may be attained.

The Secretary to the Board is to inform promptly all members of the Board of any action taken by the Executive Committee. The Rector is to report actions taken by the Executive Committee at the next full meeting of the Board.

#### **B. Standing Committees.**

Annually, the Executive Committee, along with the President, will assess current standing committee structure and the alignment with strategic goals of the University and existing or emerging issues. The Executive Committee will recommend new standing committees and/or changes to the current standing committees to the full Board of Visitors for approval as the need is determined.

Each standing committee is comprised of the Rector and Vice Rector plus not fewer than three additional Board members appointed by the Rector during or after the annual meeting. The Rector designates the chair and vice-chair of each committee and, on recommendation of the President, appoints an administrative assistant to staff each committee.

A simple majority of the members of a committee constitutes a quorum. In the event that quorum is not present, other members of the Board may be appointed by the Rector to serve in the place of absent members on an ad hoc and temporary basis in order that a quorum may be attained.

Matters may be referred to standing committees by the President, the President's designee, the Rector, or the full Board. In addition to the specific responsibilities provided by these



Bylaws, the standing committees shall have any other duties and responsibilities assigned by the Board or the Rector.

- C. Special Committees.** Special or ad hoc committees are established by the Board or the Rector for an expressed purpose and limited duration. Special committees may have no fewer than four members appointed by the Rector, who may change the membership at any time. The Rector designates the Chair of special committees.

## **Section 7 – Policies and Procedures.**

Subject to state law and these Bylaws, the Board may adopt rules and regulations and may establish specific policies or procedures for the operation of the University and, to the extent not inconsistent with these Bylaws, for the Board's own governance. All such policies and procedures in existence on the date of the adoption of these Bylaws, and all policies and procedures subsequently adopted by the Board must be published and are binding on all affected university constituents. The President shall be responsible for the publication and implementation of all policies and procedures of the Board.

## **Article II – Employees**

### **Section 1 – The President**

The President serves at the pleasure of the Board of Visitors or pursuant to contract with the Board. The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and oversees the overall operation of the University. The President is expected to provide leadership to the University community in the development of its mission and programs. The President directs the University's administration, faculty and staff, and oversees the financial affairs of the University and the use and maintenance of its physical facilities. The President supports the fund-raising and advancement efforts of public and private entities on behalf of the University and serves as the University's representative and official spokesperson. The President must act in accord with the policies and direction of the Board. The President must perform the duties and exercise the authority of the office in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

The President may delegate specific duties, in whole or in part, to other employees of the University. However, the President remains responsible for the performance of the delegate as to all matters within the President's authority.

The Board shall meet with the President, at least annually, in a closed meeting, and deliver an evaluation of the President's performance. A preliminary evaluation report is to be submitted by the Executive Committee to the Board, which report serves as the initial basis for the Board's review and evaluation. Objectives for the coming year will also be presented to the Board by the President at the time of the evaluation.

Any changes to the President's contract shall be made only by vote of a majority of all members of the Board.

## **Section 2 – Provost, Vice Presidents and Direct Reports to the President**

The Provost, Vice Presidents and all direct reports to the President are selected by the President, subject to approval by the Board, and serve at the pleasure of the President, or upon such other terms as agreed by the employee, the President, and the Board.

## **Section 3 – University Auditor**

The University Auditor is responsible for the University's internal audit function, which provides independent appraisals and reviews of University operations. The University Auditor is administratively responsible to the President, but is functionally accountable to the Board of Visitors. The University Auditor is appointed by, and reports to, the Board or a Board committee, as directed by the Board. In addition to the general responsibilities of the position, the University Auditor performs such duties incidental to the office as assigned by the Board or the President

## **Article III – Miscellaneous**

### **Section 1 – Suspension or Amendment of Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be suspended or amended in whole or in part at any meeting of the Board of Visitors.

### **Section 2 – Parliamentary Authority**

Unless otherwise specified by these Bylaws, all Board and committee meetings, actions, and rulings will be guided by the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (most recent edition).