ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE
2:30 P.M.**
DECEMBER 2, 2021
MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS BOARD ROOM
THIRD FLOOR, MARTIN HALL, RADFORD, VA

DRAFT
AGENDA

• CALL TO ORDER
  Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair

• APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair

• APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  o September 9, 2021
  Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair

• ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT
  Dr. J. Orion Rogers, Interim Provost
  and Vice President for Academic Affairs
  o Academic Affairs Update
    ▪ Office of the Provost Organizational
      Restructuring
    ▪ Dean of the Libraries Search Concluded
    ▪ Emeritus Faculty
  o Sense of Belonging Through Research Presentation

• FACULTY SENATE REPORT
  Dr. Katie Hilden, President, Faculty Senate

• OTHER BUSINESS
  Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair

• ADJOURNMENT
  Dr. Thomas Brewster, 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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair
Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkingham, Vice Chair
Ms. Charlene A. Curtis
Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes
Mr. David A. Smith
Dr. Katie Hilden, Non-Voting Faculty Advisory Member
• **From the Interim Provost**
The fall 2021 semester has been very successful in Academic Affairs with the implementation of the REAL curriculum, as well as planning for developing our QEP and submission of the Compliance Certification Report.

• **Academic Leadership Fellows**
Radford University announced the first faculty appointments to the Academic Leadership Fellows (AL Fellows) program on September 3. The AL Fellows program is designed to support leadership development and continuing student support through campus-wide faculty-student engagement. AL Fellows is a collaboration between the Academic Success Center and the new REAL general education curriculum. The program is made up of seven faculty members, each representing one of the six undergraduate colleges and the School of Nursing.

The Academic Leadership Fellows and the colleges they represent are:
- Kimberly Lane, Ph.D., Artis College of Science and Technology.
- Wendy Eckenrod-Green, Ph.D., College of Education and Human Development.
- Patricia (Trish) Winter, Ph.D., College of Visual and Performing Arts.
- Aysha Bodenhamer, Ph.D., College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences.
- Jennifer Elias, Ph.D., Davis College of Business and Economics.
- Kerry Vandergrift, Ph.D., Waldron College of Health and Human Services.
- Helen Reed, School of Nursing

• **The REAL Experience – October 4, 2021**
The Academic Success Center, the Center for Career and Talent Development and many of the university’s faculty were present in Young Hall on October 4, 2021 to give students the REAL Experience, formerly the Majors and Minors Fair. Representatives from more than 45 academic programs were present to talk with students about exploring academic programs and student-engagement opportunities as well as majors and minors within Radford University’s new REAL Curriculum, which launched with the 2021 fall semester. REAL also showcases the diversity of academic experiences available to Radford students. The curriculum features majors in 43 areas of study and more than 90 minors. The Real Curriculum will provide every Radford student courses of study that will ignite their passion for learning.

• **Emeritus Faculty**
Based on recommendations from the Department Personnel Committee, the Department Chair, the College Dean, and the Provost, the President has awarded emeritus status to the following retired faculty members:
The Surgical Technology Program at RUC in the Waldron College of Health and Human Services is an associate's degree program that was added to the Radford University curriculum at the time of the merger with Jefferson College of Health Sciences in July of 2019. This associate's degree program will be transitioning to Virginia Western Community College on July 13, 2022. The two faculty members currently employed in the Surgical Technology program at RUC will become faculty members at Virginia Western Community College to continue the program with a seamless transition for the students. Students who enrolled in the Surgical Technology program in August of 2020 will graduate as Radford University students, and students who enrolled in Surgical Technology in August of 2021 will graduate as Virginia Western Community College students.

The Sense of Belonging Through Research
Presentation from Dr. Joe Wirgua, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship and students Skylar Roberson, Sam Williams, and Luc White.
Based on recommendations from the Department Personnel Committee, the Department Chair, the College Dean, and the Provost, the President has awarded emeritus status to the following retired faculty members:

Reginald Shareef  Department of Political Science
Paul Witkowsky   Department of English
Don Secreast  Department of English
Tim Poland   Department of English
Carolyn Mathews  Department of English
Rosemary Guruswamy  Department of English
Garth Montgomery  Department of History
Edward Udd   Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism
Mark Wagstaff  Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism

- Criteria for the awarding of emeritus faculty status are:
  - A minimum of ten years of service to Radford University;
  - Evidence of effective teaching; and
  - Significant professional contributions.

- The privileges and responsibilities attached to emeritus status include:
  - Use of the library;
  - Use of those athletic facilities available to regular faculty;
  - Use of a university computer account;
  - A Radford University identification card and special event discounts available with it; and
  - Attendance at University functions that are open to all regular faculty
Sense of Belonging
Through Research
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS) advances a sustainable culture of undergraduate research, scholarship and creative inquiry (URSCI).
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Research Defined: mentored investigation or creative inquiry that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge.
RU students that participate in research are 8% more likely to be retained.
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

NACE Career Readiness Competencies


93% of research rookies said the program improved or greatly improved their ability to communicate effectively.
Sense of Belonging through Research

Infusing research into the curriculum

RU students that participate in research are over twice as likely to have leadership roles on campus.

In the 2020AY, 196 more courses offered research experiences at RU vs. the 2019AY.
Skylar Roberson, Class of 2022

- From deep Southwest Virginia
- Sister is an alumna
- Drawn by the community
- Applying to DPT programs
- Multiple foundation awards
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Accelerated Research Opportunities Living-Learning Communities
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Ames Scholar, Highlander Research Rookie
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

OURS Executive Student Assistant
ARO-LLC Peer Mentor
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Sam Williams, Class of 2024

• From South Carolina
• Started hacking at age 12
• Drawn by the curriculum and research
• Access to faculty in recruiting
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Engaging in Academics
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Internships

Genzeon
Better People | Better Solutions

Radford University

Virginia Tech
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Presenting and Networking
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Luc White, Class of 2022

• From deep Southwest Virginia
• First-generation
• Non-binary
• Requires university support
• Foundation scholarships
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Research in chemistry, freshman year
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Highlander Research Rookies

![Image of students and faculty members posing together.

![Image of artwork and scientific equipment.

The Macksey Journal

Volume 1

2020

Wearable Life: Translating Medicinal Plant Properties in Jewelry

Lucas White
Radford University; lwhite91@radford.edu
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Breaking Down Boundaries
Sense of Belonging through URSCI

National Science Foundation - Research Experiences for Undergraduates

Unearthing Giants: Novel 3D Reconstruction of Carboniferous Lycophyte Roots from Coal Ball Material

Lucas D. White1, Fabian Herrera2, Maya A. Bickner2, Patrick S. Herendeen2
Radford University, Radford, VA 24142, USA

Introduction

Using the Carboniferous period, when trees and other plants were widespread across the Earth, we can explore the diversity of life during this time. The roots of these plants were previously difficult to study due to their small size and hard consistency. However, recent advancements in technology have made it possible to reconstruct these roots in 3D. This project aims to explore the relationship between these roots and the environment, providing insights into the biological and ecological processes of the past.

Hypothesis

Coal ball material provides an opportunity to study the structural and compositional characteristics of the roots. We hypothesize that the roots in coal balls are preserved in a state of preservation that allows for detailed imaging and analysis.

Methods

The root material was collected from the Ohio Coal Ball Collection at the Radford University Museum. The material was imaged using a combination of X-ray tomography and 3D printing. A 3D model of the root was created using the imaging data, allowing for detailed examination of the root structure.

Results

The reconstructed root images reveal the complex morphology of the Carboniferous lycophyte roots. These images provide evidence of the biological processes that led to the formation of the coal balls.

Discussion

The reconstructed images of the Carboniferous lycophyte roots have revealed new insights into the biological processes that led to the formation of coal balls. These findings provide a deeper understanding of the ecological processes of the past and highlight the importance of preserving and studying these ancient plant remains.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the National Science Foundation (grant number 1222307). We would like to thank the Radford University Museum for providing the root material and the Radford University Faculty for their support.

References


Table 1

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<td>4.8</td>
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<tr>
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Figures

1. X-ray tomography image of a Carboniferous lycophyte root.
2. 3D reconstruction of a Carboniferous lycophyte root.

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Sense of Belonging through URSCI

Social Belonging
Campus Belonging
Academic Belonging
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE
2:30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM
MARTIN HALL, THIRD FLOOR, RADFORD, VA

DRAFT
MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair
Ms. Charlene A. Curtis
Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes
Mr. David Smith
Dr. Katie Hilden, Non-voting Faculty Advisory Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Mr. Robert Archer, Rector
Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston
Dr. Jay Brown, Vice Rector

OTHERS PRESENT
Dr. Carolyn R. Lepre, Interim President
Ms. Karen Casteele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President
Dr. Angela Joyner, Interim Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Dr. J. Orion Rogers, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Deb Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Education Section Chief

CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Memorial Board Room in Martin Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Dr. Brewster asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2021 meeting agenda for the Academic Excellence and Research Committee, as published. Ms. Charlene A. Curtis so moved, Mr. David Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Dr. Brewster asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting of the Academic Excellence and Research Committee, as published. Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes so moved, Mr. David Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs J. Orion Rogers began his report by sharing that Radford University was selected as one of 66 institutions across the nation to participate in a new Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Institute on Open Educational Resources (OER), that began as a virtual kickoff on July 26-27, 2021 and will conclude with a capstone closing event on July 25-27, 2022. Open educational resources (OER) are educational materials that are free for faculty and students to use, revise and share, and they range from single lessons to textbooks.

Interim Provost Rogers stated that Fall 2021 will commence the process for Radford University to seek reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) through the decennial comprehensive review. The Compliance Certification Report is due to SACSCOC by September 2022, and the Off-site Review is conducted in November 2022. In early spring of 2023, the Focused Report is due, and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is due in spring 2023. The onsite review will be conducted from March 27-30, 2023, the response to the Visiting Committee Report is due five months following the onsite review, and review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees occurs in December of 2023. As part of the reaffirmation plan the Quality Enhancement Plan has been selected. The topic selected by the QEP Topic Identification Committee is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Interim Provost Rogers shared information about new chairs and directors, including Dr. Chapman Rackaway, who serves as the new Chair of the Department of Political Science. Dr. Rackaway comes to Radford from the University of West Georgia, where he served as the chair and professor in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Jennifer Walton is welcomed as the new Director of the School of Communication. Dr. Walton comes to Radford from Ohio Northern University, where she served as the chair in Communication and Media Studies and Professor in Communication Studies. Dr. Kevin Chui will be welcomed in November as the new Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at Radford University Carilion. Dr. Chui comes to Radford from Pacific University, where he served as the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs in the College of Health Professions.

Several interim placements were shared by Interim Provost Rogers including, Dr. Art Carter is the Interim Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology, Dr. Jake Fox is the Interim Associate Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology, Dr. Jerry Kopf is the Interim Chair of the Department of Management, Dr. Wil Stanton is the Interim Chair of the Department of Marketing, Dr. Jeff Pittges is the Interim Director of the School of Computing and Information Sciences and Dr. Shala Cunningham is the Interim Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy until Dr. Chui’s arrival in November.
Interim Provost Rogers stated that Radford University welcomed 42 new faculty for the Fall 2021 semester, of which 22 are new to Radford. These faculty represent disciplines from all six colleges and the School of Nursing.

Interim Provost Rogers stated that based on recommendations from the Department Personnel Committee, the Department Chair, the College Dean, and the Provost, the President has awarded emeritus status to the following faculty members effective upon their retirement, including Professor Glen Martin from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies; Professor Kay Jordan from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies; Professor Iain Clelland from the Department of Management; and Professor Grigory Ioffe from the Department of Geospatial Sciences.

Interim Provost Rogers presented an overview of the summer 2021 outreach programs, which develop the sense of campus community belonging in prospective students and were offered in the Artis College of Science and Technology, the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the Waldron College of Health and Human Services, and include:

Summer Bridge Women in STEM and Summer Bridge Cyber Camp - Women in STEM is a week-long residential experience for rising sophomore, junior, and senior high school girls interested in science, technology, and mathematics. CYBER CAMP is an interactive experience for students with a Capture the Flag Competition, MicroBit programming and more.

Governor’s School - The Governor’s School for Colleges of Visual and Performing Arts and Humanities and Behavioral Sciences works to enhance the individual college experience as students grow and learn. The College of Visual and Performing Arts hosted 150 students and the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences hosted 100 students.

International Summer Dance Intensive (ISDI) is a classically based program ideal for serious and dedicated ballet students age 12 and older who have had a minimum of two years of ballet training and at least one year of pointe training for girls, and is hosted by the Department of Dance. Since 2007, there have been 290 in attendance, 96 were Japanese students and 54 students became Radford University dance majors.

RUC Summer Camps by the Master of Occupational Therapy provides opportunities for children ages 3-5 and 6-14 and offers the chance for campers to build their cognitive, physical/motor, sensory and social skills while their graduate student hosts gain real-world clinical experience.

Interim Provost Rogers shared that the Honors College develops social belonging, academic belonging and campus-community belonging to our currently enrolled students. Dr. Niels Christensen serves as Director of the Honors College, which total and first-year honors enrollment are the highest since 2015-16. Students enrolled through the Honors College have a 92% retention rate.
Interim Provost Rogers shared information on REALising Inclusive Science Excellence in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics at Radford University, which is funded by a five-year, $1M grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. REALISE aims to change faculty and student mindset through developing and implementing engaging and inclusive pedagogies.

In closing, Interim Provost Rogers shared the goals of the Quality Enhancement Plan, which are: increase students’ sense of belonging in classrooms; increase students’ sense of belonging in residence halls; increase students’ self-efficacy and academic confidence; and increase student retention, progression, and graduation rates.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
With no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Brewster adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Stewart Taylor  
Executive Assistant to the Provost
End of Board of Visitors Materials