

Minutes of the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate

<https://www.radford.edu/faculty-senate/minutes.html>

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May 1, 2025

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 1, 2025
via Zoom videoconference

Members present:

Krystina Angelini, Alyssa Archer, Elliot Carhart, Tom Castor, Mike Chatham, Tara Chitwood, Eric Choate, Matthew Close, Darryl Corey, Thomas Duncan, Scott Dunn, Kevin Farrell, Jake Fox, Kurt Gingrich, Stephen Glass, Rhett Herman, Judy Jenks, Jae Jeong, Sarah Kennedy, Kim Lane, Michelle Lenhart, Luke Liska, Eric Mesmer, Garth Mills, Kereen Mullenbach, Roby Page, Tara Pelletier, Inessa Plekhanova, Jessica Prince, Sarah Rakes, Daniel Reed, Tara Riddle, Tammy Robinson, Rachel Rotert, David Sallee, Rachel Santos, Will Sawyer, Greg Sherman, Judy Smith, Eftila Tanellari, Carter Turner, Susan Van Patten, Laura Vernon, Courtney Watson, Brent Webb, Wesley Young

Members absent:

Ian Barland, Roofia Galeshi, Naveen Joseph, Liang Shao, Jake Stewart

- I. Meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m. by Dr. Geoff Pollick, serving as Chairperson Pro Tem.
- II. Dr. Matthew Close, past president of the Faculty Senate, was invited to share remarks welcoming all senators.
- III. Elections were held for officers of the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate:
 - a. President
 - i. Matthew Close was nominated and seconded.
 - ii. Matthew Close was elected with 45 votes.
 - b. Vice President
 - i. Kevin Farrell was nominated and seconded.
 - ii. Kevin Farrell was elected with 45 votes.
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Kim Lane was nominated but declined nomination.
 - ii. Sarah Kennedy was nominated but declined nomination.
 - iii. Tara Chitwood was nominated but declined nomination.
 - iv. Laura Vernon was nominated but declined nomination.
 - v. Courtney Watson was nominated and seconded.
 - vi. Courtney Watson was elected with 40 votes.
 - d. At-large Member of the FSEC
 - i. Alyssa Archer was nominated and seconded but withdrew from nomination.
 - ii. Sarah Rakes was nominated and seconded.

- iii. Tara Chitwood was nominated and seconded.
 - iv. Jake Fox was nominated and seconded.
 - v. Sarah Rakes was elected in the first round with 29 votes.
- e. At-large Member of the FSEC
 - i. Tara Chitwood was nominated and seconded.
 - ii. Jake Fox was nominated and seconded
 - iii. Tara Chitwood was elected in the second round with 29 votes.
- f. Parliamentarian
 - i. Kurt Gingrich was nominated and seconded.
 - ii. Jake Fox was nominated but declined nomination
 - iii. Kurt Gingrich was elected with 38 votes.

IV. Announcements

V. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

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August 12, 2025

Minutes
2025-2026 Faculty Senate Retreat & Special Meeting
Roanoke Higher Education Center

Members Present: Matt Close, Kevin Farrell, Sarah Rakes, Tara Chitwood, Courtney Watson, Laura Vernon, Tammy Robinson, Rachel Rotert, Naveen Joseph, , Mike Chatham, Jayme Haynes, David Sallee, Susan Van Patten, Thomas Duncan, Eric Choate, Wesley Young, Daniel Reed, Kurt Gingrich, Jacob Stewart, Tom Castor, Sarah Kennedy, Darryl Corey, Judy Smith, Jaewan Jeong, Eric Mesmer, Shawn Huston (Rhett Herman filled in), Inessa Plekhanova, Michelle Lenhart, Kereen Mullenbach, Liang Shao, Stephen Glass, Jake Fox, Elliott Carhart, Nathaniel Lahn, Jessica Prince, Will Sawyer, Brent Webb, Roofia Galeshi, Tara Riddle, Carter Turner, Kim Lane, Roby Page, Krystina Angelini, Allyssa Archer, Garth Mills, Luke Liska

Members Absent: Judy Jenks, Rachel Santos

- I. Meeting was called to order at 10am by Dr. Matthew Close.
- II. The minutes of the May 1, 2025 meeting were approved by acclamation.
- III. President's Report
 - a. No report from the President.
- IV. Provost's Report
 - a. Provost Usher welcomed the Senate and reaffirmed her commitment to shared governance. From the Board of Visitors meeting, Provost User reported the Board will be focusing on what is happening at Radford, not at schools in the rest of the state.
 - b. Provost Usher is reviewing the results of the COACHE survey, which will be shared with faculty. Lots of great data and leading themes.
 - i. One goal is to maintain transparency and build trust.
 - ii. Workload. The administration is working to ease the administrative burden on faculty. Provost Usher is hoping for a better conversation about faculty workload.
 - iii. University Internal Governance Review Committee (UIGRC)- shared governance, committees, and task forces. Committee updates will come through Faculty Senate.
 - iv. The general education work continues, and committees will soon be filled.
 - v. There will be a Student Faculty Evaluation Committee with the goal of making faculty evaluations less biased and more equitable.
 - vi. For faculty review cycles, Provost Usher would love to be able to move to an automated system.
 - c. Questions for Provost User
 - i. Dr. Kurt Gingrich: Retention is up, the reported goal is 8,000 students, how is that divided? Provost Usher: 6,000 students in Radford, 2,000

students in Roanoke. 6,000 undergraduates students and 2,000 graduate students is the goal. Provost Usher would like to see our admission of transfer students go up. This year, the number is stable, mainly due to transfers from community colleges.

- ii. One thing to work on this year is state challenges, re: the SCHEV board, which is putting more stringent restrictions about what constitutes a viable academic program.
 1. The state is going to create a metric for evaluating programs. The only metric currently being used as guidance for measuring ROI is on <https://freopp.org/>. It does not list all programs at Radford, or any other university in Virginia, but it does list some. There are a few undergraduate programs at Radford that trigger a low/no/negative ROI warning on this site, such as teaching and social work.
 2. Provost Usher: If it looks like SCHEV is going to tell us what to do with programs, we will want to support and change the programs to get ahead of the possible (likely very small amount) program closure orders from SCHEV.
 3. Dr. Jessica Stowell is monitoring this closely.

- V. Update from Dr. Jessica Stowell, Assistant Provost for Faculty and Curriculum
 - a. Evaluating the faculty success software. Faculty have had issues with it, but since it is an internal tool built by Radford, her office can change it for the better. Psychology, History, and Nursing are currently participating in the pilot of a new program, which is promising but needs further refinement.
 - b. COACHE- The University did the COACHE survey last year. We are committed to collecting that data and using it to make recommendations. Faculty Senate's Campus Environment committee will be working on that.
- VI. Special Report to the Faculty Senate: Dr. David Beach
 - a. Topic: REAL 2025-2027. Dr. David Beach provided updates to the REAL transition model for the next two academic years. Changes will allow students who enroll at Radford before new General Education model is fully implemented to complete their REAL requirements.
 - b. Topic: General education implementation plan presentation. Dr. David Beach, Director of Undergraduate Education, presented slides and discussed the roles of the implementation committee and subcommittees.
 - c. Question by Dr. Jake Fox: Will everyone vote on these committees? Dr. Beach: We'll work that out as a committee.
- VII. President's Report
 - a. Dr. Matt Close, Faculty Senate President, reported on the most recent Board of Visitors meeting, saying the Board is very interested in making Radford the best place for students to get an education in Virginia. The Board is active and involved, and they are very interested in the COACHE data and making sure that Radford offers a good environment for everyone.

- VIII. Motions
- a. Motions approved over the summer by FSEC. Three items came up in the summer with hard deadlines that FSEC felt we could vote on.
 - i. Motion 25.25.01: Motion to Revise the Faculty Handbook to Include the New Membership Composition of the Faculty Appeals Committee
 - ii. Motion 25.26.02: Motion to Revise the Faculty Handbook to Include the New Membership Composition of the Faculty Grievance Committee
 - iii. Motion 25.26.03: Motion to Delete the Minor in Forensic Science (R)
- IX. New Business
- a. 25-26.04: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation Steering Committee
 - b. 25-26.05: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation Curriculum Subcommittee
 - c. 25-26.06: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation Assessment Subcommittee
 - d. 25-26.07: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation Technology Integration Subcommittee
 - e. 25-26.08: Motion to Create the General Education RADF 101/Find Your Place & Advising Subcommittee
- X. Announcements
- a. Accessibility rules: whose rules are we using for accessibility? In some instances, Microsoft says that documents meet the accessibility threshold, but then those documents are not accepted by D2L. We need to ask the Disability Office for Guidance on this.
 - b. Strategic plan Town Halls this week.
- XI. Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate was adjourned at 11:50am.
- XII. Committee Working Session
- a. Chair/secretary selection
 - i. Curriculum: Dr. Eric Choate, Chair; Dr. Tara Chitwood, Secretary
 - ii. Resource Allocation: Alyssa Archer, Chair; Dr. Tara Riddle, Secretary
 - iii. Faculty Issues: Dr. Kevin Farrell, Chair; Dr. Judy Smith, Secretary
 - iv. Governance: Dr. Kereen Mullenbach, Chair; Dr. Rachel Santos, Secretary
 - v. Campus Environment: Dr. Courtney Watson, Chair; Dr. Rachel Rotert, Secretary
 - b. Charge prioritization
 - c. Discussion: Generative AI Charges
- XIII. The retreat was adjourned at 2pm.



August 28, 2025

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2025

3:30-4:50 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Members Present: Courtney Watson, Matt Close, Sarah Rakes, Tara Chitwood, Rhett Herman, Rachel Rotert, Alyssa Archer, Carter Turner, Darryl Corey, David Sallee, Eric Choate, Inessa Plekhanova, Jake Fox, Jake Stewart, Jayme Haynes, Jessica Prince, Judy Smith, Kereen Mullenbach, Roofia Galeshi, Scott Dunn, Stephen Glass, Susan Van Patten, Tara Riddle, Timothy Furher, Tom Castor, Wesley Young, Will Sawyer, Luke Liska, Michelle Lenhart, Mike Chatham, Naveen Joseph, Rachel Santos, Kim Lane, Krystina Angelini, Kurt Gingrich, Laura Vernon, Jae Jeong, Nathaniel Lahn, Eric Mesmer, Garth Mills, Greg Sherman, Liang Shao, Brent Webb, Roby Page, Elliott Carhart

Members Absent: Judy Jenks, Daniel Reed, Tammy Robinson, Eftila Tanellari

- I. Approval of Minutes
 - i. August 12, 2024- minutes approved by acclimation.
- II. University President's Report: Dr. Bret Danilowicz
 - i. Radford University has two different six-year plans that are in the process of development.
 - 1. The first is the SCHEV plan, which is something we're required to report on to the state every year, though it resets every two years.
 - 2. Two weeks ago, President Danilowicz presented our six-year plan to SCHEV and a couple of the cabinet secretaries; the area they were most interested in (from all universities) is enrollment. The Radford U plan is concerned with enrollment, but also the bigger picture of retention, jobs for graduates, and university finances, which is what we are currently working on.
 - 3. The report from the institution was very well received; our last one, which was two years ago, showed seven years of declining enrollment, and now we've had two years' of increasing enrollment. Two years ago, our retention was down

to 68%; last year, it was up to 75%, so the response from SCHEV was very positive. They were very complimentary of the work of faculty and staff. This report will be shared through the Board of Visitors.

ii. Six-year university strategic plan

1. President Danilowicz addressed faculty concerns about getting/keeping the Strategic Plan Powerpoint Presentation on the site. There was an accessibility issue, but this should be fixed today.
2. Shared governance. This was not listed as a strategy on the plan, but the President affirmed that it is in a part of the strategic plan that hasn't been published yet, in a section called "Who We Are," which is about the background of the institution. There will be an explicit statement of shared governance that has been developed by the faculty, shared close to verbatim.
3. This plan should be on the site about a week before the Board of Visitors meeting. This will be the most updated version to date.

iii. Enrollment

1. Overall, we have about 190 more students this fall than last year. We're not at census yet, but the final number should be close to that. It might not sound like a lot, but it equates to about \$1.9 million coming into the institution.
2. Our goal is enrollment stability, and this is very positive news. Our enrollment is stable; retention started off very high this summer, but the closer we've gotten to term, it has ended up basically flat when compared to last year. This is an area that we're going to keep working on.

iv. State Senate and House

1. It will soon be in the news that there was an action taken today by the State Senate, or maybe the State Senate and the House, that they've rejected six board members at George Mason, four board members at UVA, and four board members at VMI.
2. Radford has a board that is supportive of what we are doing, and we seem to be out of the political loop for whatever is happening at other institutions. We have a good working relationship with our board, and the President does not feel they are trying to oversteer us in any particular direction.

v. Executive Order

1. Governor Youngkin issued an executive order that requires all institutions, through their Board of Visitors, to have an anti-Semitism statement in their student handbook. It was sent to rectors, and the expectation is that the rectors will implement

it, though not at the September meeting due to legal issues that are still being worked through.

2. President Danilowicz anticipates that it will likely be put in place in the December meeting. While the EO says anti-Semitism, it's basically the protection of all religions on campus.

III. Provost's Report: Dr. Bethany Usher

1. Strategic Plan

- i. The committee has listened to Academic Affairs about strengthening what they are doing.
- ii. It looks good, and the Provost appreciates the input that everybody gave.

2. Enrollment and Retention

- i. The Provost is proud of our numbers, particularly those of first-time freshmen.
- ii. Her office is also looking at the numbers for juniors and seniors.
- iii. Overall, we are in a much better place than we were a few years ago, and the Provost appreciates everyone's support of student success.

3. Speaker Series

- i. The Speaker series is being rebranded to the Faculty Speaker Series.
- ii. There will be four this year, in a public forum, to emphasize the value of the research that faculty do, and generate support for Radford and higher education in general.
- iii. The goal is to partner with the community; the Radford Chamber of Commerce and the Joint Commission have been supportive.
- iv. Locations may be at places like Bee & Butter. The selected faculty speakers will receive invitations. The Provost would like to see support for these speakers; invite your students, friends and neighbors.
- v. This series needs a name; please submit your ideas to Threads.

4. Culture of Care

- i. Outbreaks of Covid and stomach bugs on campus; please be thoughtful about student absences and encourage them to stay isolated if they are sick.
- ii. A reminder that Student Health does not give sick notes for student absences, but the Dean of Students has a webpage for absence notification.

5. Questions for the Provost

- i. Dr. Kurt Gingrich: When you say 75% retention, does that mean 75% of all students who were and could have returned in the fall have done so? Provost: No, 75% retention is fall-to-fall retention of students in their first year of college. We won't have a summary of everyone until after the census takes place.

- ii. Dr. Wes Young: When will we get detail about the Governor's School coming to campus, and how it will impact our daily operations and workloads?

President Danilowicz: The intent is to start the school in Fall 2026. As part of the budget, those students will only be receiving courses taught by high school teachers in Kyle Hall. It will not directly impact our faculty that year, per se, though there may be opportunities where faculty want to get involved. Starting in 2027, some of those students will start populating our classes. CITL will offer some professional development training for working with gifted students.

For the budget, this is a budget-neutral or better program for the institution. We will be hiring a director.

Provost Usher: The director has to come as a qualified K-12 teacher, and they will be working closely with CVPA and CHBS. This will be for roughly 40 students per year.

IV. Faculty Senate President's Report: Dr. Matt Close

- i. Dr. Close has been working with FSEC on developing motions for general education, curriculum and assessment, technology, and Radford 101 in conjunction with the steering committee.

V. Parliamentary Procedures: Dr. Kurt Gingrich

VI. Committee Reports

- Campus Environment- Dr. Courtney Watson, Chair and Dr. Rachel Rotert, Secretary.
- Curriculum- Dr. Eric Choate, Chair, and Dr. Tara Chitwood, Secretary.
- Faculty Issues- Dr. Kevin Farrell, Chair, and Dr. Judy Smith, Secretary.
- Governance- Dr. Kereen Mullenbach, Chair, and Dr. Rachel Santos, Secretary.
- Resource Allocation- Alyssa Archer, Chair, and Dr. Tara Riddle, Secretary.

VII. Old Business

- 1. 25-26.04: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation Steering Committee

Motion to amend to say, "as amended 8-28-2025."

Motion to amend passes, 45 yea, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Motion passes, 44 yea, 2 no, 0 abstain.

- 2. 25-26.05: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation Curriculum Subcommittee

Motion to amend to say, "as amended 8-28-2025."

Motion to amend passes, 46 yea, 0 no, 0 abstain.
Motion passes, 41 yea, 3 no, 2 abstain.

3. 25-26.06: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation
Assessment Subcommittee

Motion to amend to say, “as amended 8-28-2025.”
Amendment accepted by acclimation.
Motion passes, 42 yea, 2 no, 2 abstain.

Motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.
Motion fails, 18 yea, 23 no, 2 abstain.

4. 25-26.07: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation
Technology Integration Subcommittee

5. 25-26.08: Motion to Create the General Education RADF 101/Find Your Place
& Advising Subcommittee

Note: The two final motions, new business, and announcements were not discussed
because the meeting timed out at 4:50pm.

VIII. New Business (none)

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:50pm.



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2025

3:30-4:50 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Members Present: Courtney Watson, Matt Close, Sarah Rakes, Tara Chitwood, Rhett Herman, Rachel Rotert, Alyssa Archer, Carter Turner, Darryl Corey, David Sallee, Eric Choate, Inessa Plekhanova, Jake Fox, Jake Stewart, Jayme Haynes, Jessica Prince, Judy Smith, Kereen Mullenbach, Roofia Galeshi, Scott Dunn, Stephen Glass, Susan Van Patten, Tara Riddle, Timothy Furher, Tom Castor, Wesley Young, Will Sawyer, Luke Liska, Michelle Lenhart, Mike Chatham, Naveen Joseph, Lori Elis (Rachel Santos), Timothy Fuhrer (Kim Lane), Krystina Angelini, Kurt Gingrich, Laura Vernon, Jae Jeong, Nathaniel Lahn, Eric Mesmer, Garth Mills, Greg Sherman, Liang Shao, Brent Webb, Roby Page, Elliott Carhart, Dan Farhat (Eftila Tanellari), Tammy Robinson, Judy Jenks, Daniel Reed

Members Absent: None.

- XI. Approval of Minutes
 - i. August 28, 2025- minutes approved by acclamation.
- XII. University President's Report: Dr. Bret Danilowicz
 - i. No report.
- XIII. Provost's Report: Dr. Bethany Usher
 - i. No report.
- XIV. Faculty Senate President's Report: Dr. Matt Close
 - 1. Census Headcount- Total: 7,837 students (6,207 undergraduate, 1,630 graduate students). Undergraduates are up slightly, and graduate students are down slightly. Good retention numbers, and we are hitting our targets for enrollment.
 - 2. Dr. Close met with the Board of Visitors on Wednesday to give an orientation to new Board members on the role of Faculty Senate and the roles and responsibilities of Senate with regards to our internal governance structure,

as well as our roles and responsibilities with university governance and ensuring that the faculty voice is heard at all levels of the institution.

- i. With Provost Usher, Dr. Close is on the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee. Provost's Usher's report discussed the two-year strategic plan, goals that have been met, and initiatives that are currently underway and planned for growth in Roanoke and growing professional development opportunities for our students.
- ii. Dr. Close's report to this committee focused on general education implementation and the COACHE survey. The Rector of the Board of Visitors asked for ways to improve the relationship between the Board and the faculty. Dr. Close would like to have the COACHE data ready to present at the December Board of Visitors meeting to address this.
- iii. Dr. Close feels that, overall, the Board has a very good perception of the faculty, and they are very supportive of things that are happening within the faculty specifically, but also in Academic Affairs as a whole
- iv. The slides that were shown at the Board of Visitors meeting, as well as the orientation slides, are available to view on the Radford Board of Visitors website.

3. AI Core Team Update: Dr. Courtney Watson

- i. The AI Core Team (Dr. Courtney Watson, Dr. Laura Vernon, Charley Cosmoto, and Jennifer Resor-Whicker) has made recommendations to Dr. Mekolichick for the creation of several AI task forces to draft guidance and best practices for AI learning and use across the University.
- ii. The AI Core Team has just started the 2025-2026 AAC&U Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum (September 11, 2025-April 11, 2026). The goal of this institute to "help departments, programs, colleges, and universities respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities artificial intelligence (AI) presents for courses, curricula, and higher education in general."

4. Dr. Close read a statement about the respectful exchange of ideas in the context of current events: "We believe that our role as educators in facilitating constructive dialogue and respectful exchange of ideas on college campuses has never been more vital to our society. Please remember that we have, as an institution and as a faculty, committed to creating an inclusive learning environment where all perspectives are treated with respect and where we facilitate constructive dialogue between students, faculty, staff, and administration. When incorporating current events into your classes, please maintain academic objectivity by presenting multiple views and distinguishing between facts and opinions rather than advocating for particular positions. Please exercise professional judgment

about whether such discussions directly serve your course learning objectives and/or accreditation standards and be prepared to redirect conversations that become unproductive or divisive.

If you have questions about appropriate boundaries and/or if you need resources about how to have conversations with students inside and outside of your classrooms, please consult with your peers, mentors, department chairs and/or our faculty and staff in the Center for Integrative Teaching and Learning.”

XV. Committee Reports

- Campus Environment
 - i. Reviewed and prioritized charges. The first priority is the COACHE survey.
- Curriculum
 - i. Finalized charges.
- Faculty Issues
 - i. Reviewed, finalized, and prioritized charges.
- Governance
 - i. Referred Motion 25-26.09 to New Business.
 - ii. Prioritized charges, including implementing revisions to the T&R handbook.
- Resource Allocation
 - i. Finalized charges.
 - ii. Invited VP of Budget and Finance Rob Hoover to a meeting.

XVI. Old Business

1. 25-26.07: Motion to Create the General Education Implementation Technology Integration Subcommittee

Motion passed, 43 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstained.

2. 25-26.08: Motion to Create the General Education RADF 101/Find Your Place & Advising Subcommittee

Motion passed, 43 in favor, 2 opposed, no abstentions.

XVII. New Business (none)

1. 25-26.09: Motion to Add the Director of Advising (or Designee) as an Ex Officio, Non-Voting Member of the REAL Council

XVIII. Announcements

XIX. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:31pm.