Minutes of the 2026-2027 Faculty Senate

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

Table of Contents

April 23, 2026 2
August 13, 2026 5
August 27, 2026 9
September 10, 2026 12
September 24, 2026 14
October 8, 2026 18
October 22, 2026 21
November 5, 2026 24
November 19, 2026 25
December 3, 2026 26
January 14, 2027 27
January 28, 2027 28
February 11, 2027 29
February 25, 2027 30
March 18, 2027 31
April 1, 2027 32
April 15, 2027 33
April 22, 2027 34

Radford University | Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2026
3:30-4:50 PM
Via Zoom videoconference

☒Pelletier ☒Archer ☒Carhart ☒Castor ☒Chatham ☒Chitwood ☒Choate ☒Close ☒Corey ☒Dunn ☒Farrell ☒Angelini ☒Galeshi ☒Gingrich ☒Glass ☒Huston ☒Haynes ☒Jenks ☒Jeong ☒Joseph ☒Fuhrer ☒Lahn ☒Lane ☒Lenhart ☒Liska ☒Mesmer ☒Mills ☒Mullenbach ☒Page ☒Van Patten ☒Plekhanova ☒Prince ☒Rakes ☒Reed ☒Rice ☒Riddle ☒Robinson ☒Rotert ☒Sallee ☒Santos ☒Sawyer ☒Shao ☒Sherman☒Smith☒Stewart☒Duncan Turner☒Vernon ☒Watson ☒Webb ☒Young

I. Approval of Minutes
   a. Minutes (4/16 and 4/21) approved by acclamation.

II. University President's Report: President Bret Danilowicz
   a. No report.

III. University Provost's Report: Provost Bethany Usher
   a. Lots of end-of-semester excitement and presentations.
   b. The Provost attended the AAC&U Gen Ed meeting with a group of faculty. She wants to thank everyone participating in the Gen Ed work, and she appreciates the Senate's support for RADF 101.
   c. The Provost also thanked everyone for their hard work and support of shared governance, and she expressed her commitment to shared governance. The Provost also thanked everyone who worked on updating the UIGRC documents (Dr. Close, Dr. Mullenbach, Dr. Hendrix, Dr. Hendrix, Katie, and Bruce). It was a collaborative and thoughtful process.
   d. The Provost respectfully asked for Motions 38 and 44 to be tabled "because in the idea of shared governance, they're both things I really support, and both really need updates. But coming at the end of the semester, I haven't had a chance to work closely with those committees to be able to bring forth edits that we can bring forward to the Board of Visitors…I would really appreciate some support so we can work together to be able to bring passable items forward."
   e. Questions

i. Dr. Gingrich: "I find it rather unusual that the Provost would specifically ask that we table motions on our agenda. I'd like to know why you're asking this…What is it about those motions?"
Provost Usher: "For 38 (extra employment), we need to work on a university policy and then make sure we've got reflective language in the handbook on that…It's really important, and I think we need to be able to do some clarification. I want to be able to work collaboratively with that group to make a policy and handbook language that's appropriate. For 44, I totally agree we need to be able to do that, but I have some edits I'd like to make that doesn't restrict what a chair or a dean can say."

IV. Faculty Senate President's Report: Dr. Matt Close
   a. Dr. Close thanked all of the senators and said he appreciated their time and consideration with this year's Senate business. He also thanked everyone who attended the special meeting.
   b. Dr. Close ceded the rest of his time for the Faculty Travel Survey report, which was presented by Senator Archer and Senator Liska. (Faculty Travel Report attached.)

V. Committee Reports
   a. Curriculum: The committee has motions in Old Business.
   b. Governance: No report.
   c. Faculty Issues: The committee has two motions in Old Business today.
   d. Resource Allocation: No report.
   e. Campus Environment: The closing date of the Faculty Morale Survey is 5/1. Please encourage your constituents to take the survey.

VI. Old Business
   a. 25-26.38: Motion to Revise the T&R Handbook for Extra Employment
      Request to go into closed session.
      39 in favor, zero opposed, seven abstained.
      The motion passed.
   b. 25-26.44: Motion to Revise the T&R Handbook for Recommending Reappointment or Non-Reappointment of Special Purpose Faculty
      A request was made for Senate to go into closed session.
      43 in favor, zero opposed, one abstained.
      The amendment to the motion passed.
      42 in favor, zero opposed, two abstained.
      The motion passed.
   c. 25-26.45: Motion to Adopt the Undergraduate Academic Advising Policy
      42 in favor, zero opposed, two abstained.
      The amendment to the motion passed.
      33 in favor, four opposed, five abstained.
      The motion passed.
   d. Motion 25-26.46: Motion to Limit Credits from a Prefix in Inquiry Areas42 in favor, one opposed, two abstained.

The motion passed.

e. Motion 25-26.48: Motion to Limit Inquiry Courses to a Single Designation
   Point of order.
   Motion to extend time an additional 10 minutes.
   34 in favor, six opposed, one abstained.
   The motion passed.
   16 in favor, 22 opposed, six abstained.
   The motion failed.
f. 25-26.49: Motion to Limit Competency Courses to a Single Designation
   Motion to extend time until we complete our agenda.
   30 in favor, nine opposed, three abstained.
   18 in favor, 18 opposed, seven abstained.
   Referred to Parliamentarian for procedure.
   Senate President Close voted no.
   The motion failed.
g. 25-26.50: Motion to Limit Integration Courses to a Single Designation
   18 in favor, 13 opposed, 11 abstained.
   The motion passed.

VII. New Business
   a. No new business.

VIII. Announcements
   a. Committee chairs, please make sure that you have continuity reports submitted before you leave for the summer.

IX. Adjournment
   a. Adjourned at 5:10pm.

Return to the Table of Contents

August 13, 2026

Faculty Senate Retreat Minutes
August 13, 2026

Provost Updates:

Provost Usher noted that she is starting her fourth year and came to RU to partner with the faculty. Building trust and partnership is a focus through processes, searches, etc. Provost Usher wants to make sure more things are more responsible and reliable and that our systems work. Referenced University Shared Governance Review Committee (USGRC) work and discussed the need for consistency in how we work. Reduced the number of administrative positions on the USGRC while maintaining the same number of faculty. Stated there is a need to update the Academic Affairs Shared Governance to align with newly revised University Shared Governance documents.
Sad news: Rich Dunham, retired faculty and previous chair of Theatre has passed away. The Provost requested and a moment of silence for Rich was recognized.

Other updates:
Professional development: Faculty are encouraged to sign up for the ACUE AI modules. Still possible to sign up. Must complete by 10/30/2026 and full time faculty will have access to additional $500 in professional development monies. Adjunct or part-time faculty will receive a $500 payment for completing this. In addition, there has been an increase in the amount of money per college by $500 per faculty. Every college has these funds but may differ in how these are accessed.
Academic Affairs guests introduced themselves and shared priorities and initiatives.

Dr. Mekolichick: Discussed strategic focus on faculty development, mentioned the ACUE AI modules, 8 available now, two more coming, due by 10/30/2026. She also noted the significant push on experiential learning.

Dr. Gomez Beane: Discussed enrollment document shared with senators and noted changes in structure. CBE courses moved from the IMPACT lab to Academic Affairs. The focus now and 40 days from now is for enrollment to be flat plus one. Flat is the new growth. Biggest part of this retention.

Dr. Jessica Stowell: Shared updates on the data front: 1) charter and membership for a data governance committee, collaboration with a lot of offices across campus, 2) slowly starting to release dashboards, coming out and sharing those with deans and chairs. Program reports are moving to dashboard format. SACSCOC has proposed a draft of revisions to the standards,

including a reduction in number of standards. Change is coming. Being more responsive and trusting of institutions. Every faculty member's credentials do not need to be sent.

Assessment: Three year assessment cycle, Nick Vaught, new director of Institutional Effectiveness, will be sharing more soon.

Curriculum: Hired new Director of Undergrad Curriculum, Also shared changes to Curriculum cycle dates. New gen ed: Shifting timeline for Curriculog course proposals due by January 15th to the Registrar's office. Program proposals will be a little different, different deadlines, more information to come!

Ms. Katie Piper, Registrar also shared updates. During the summer, the office's biggest focus was on IT implementation for new gen ed. Draft of next year's catalog to reflect changes from REAL to Gen Ed. Scheduling open for Spring 2027 and offering training for that. Also working on publishing information for campus community, including: final exam schedule. 2026-2027 catalog was published in May 2026.

Dr. Tim Fuhrer, Director of Undergraduate Curriculum
Priorities:

1) implementation of gen ed, faculty should consider what courses could be considered.
2) Teaching RADF 101 opportunities – please consider this opportunity for your department or school.
3) If you have more detailed questions about gen ed, please consider attending the virtual Our Turn sessions offered next week.

Dr. Benton and Professor VanKirk shared RADF 101 Update: Senators were updated on the approach being developed for the RADF 101 course, including the plan to recruit faculty for teaching the course. Also noted were the clusters approach to assigning students to the courses, including the request that students provide areas of interest for enrollment in those courses. See shared slides for additional information.

Faculty Senate Meeting
Called to order at 1:15 pm
Attendance (by college):
Artis: Krystina Angelini, Tara Pelletier, Matthew Close, Nathaniel Lahn, Tim Fuhrer, Andrew Foy, Eric Choate, Shawn Huston
CEHD: Jessica Prince, Anna DeVito, Josh Roe
CHBS: Kevin Farrell, Laura Vernon, Michael Meindl, Nicole Hendrix, Kurt Gingrich, Roby Page, Courtney Watson
Nursing: Judy Jenks, Joanna Murray, Kereen Mullenbach
CVPA: Will Sawyer, Stuart Robinson, Bruce Parsons, Rachel Rotert, Wesley Young
Davis: Rich Gruss, Thomas Duncan, Benjamin Biermier Hanson, Luke Liska
Libraries: Alyssa Archer
Waldron: Michelle Lenhart, Tara Riddle

Minutes were reviewed: Two edits were needed to the 4/23/2026 minutes, including noting Dr. Gingrich's attendance and updating spelling of Dr. Fuhrer name.

Minutes were approved by acclimation pending those revisions. Please see updated minutes for 4/23/2026.

Faculty Senate President's Report:
President Watson introduced FSEC and began the update of summer activities.
President Watson attended the Board of Visitors Meeting and Retreat this summer. A new rector was elected, Mr. Dale Ardizzone. Board Advocacy Priorities were established including Capital Projects, such as the Roanoke building fund and ongoing lobbying for capital projects (Tyler, Norwood, Dalton, Amphitheatre, Infrastructure. Continuing to build the healthcare workforce and focus on the Center for Rural Health (sustain momentum through multiple legislative budget cycles). Other Board priorities included enrollment, competition, landscape of higher ed.
President Watson also noted state priorities, including expanding credentialing pathways for dual enrollment, growing the talent pipeline (via reduced out-of-state tuition), investing in Virginia's healthcare future.
President Watson noted the successful selection of the DUC, Dr. Tim Fuhrer. Work on RADF101 and the work being done around experiential learning; SCHEV push for "internships".

Dr. Watson also served on the University Policies Committee this summer and will continue to represent the faculty on that committee in the coming year. It was noted that Senate will have an opportunity to review all policies; most will go to Senate committees, the rest to the Senate SharePoint file (DHRM). Policies originators from UPC can be invited to Senate committee meetings if the committee would like them to listen and take notes.

Dr. Hendrix discussed the Provost initiative to conduct Academic Governance revision considering the significant shared governance revision work from last year. Dr. Katie Hilden Clouse has agreed to join a small working group with Dr. Hendrix and the soon-to-be elected chair of the FS Governance Committee. (That committee elected Dr. Stephen Glass as chair, along with co-chair Dr. Kereen Mullenbach). Dr. Glass will serve on the working group) and help to engage the FS Governance Committee in that revision work.
Dr. Watson noted the University AI Initiatives- ACUE Registration Still Open. She also mentioned ideas around holding town halls and proposals to conduct these around AI, State of the Sector (Landscape of Higher Ed, Challenges and Opportunities), and the Center for Rural Health

Dr. Watson mentioned the work needed by the Campus Environment Committee needed in response to the Faculty Morale Survey, including the report of the findings, analysis, Senate/campus presentations. The theme for the year for Faculty Senate is Communication, Clarity, Visibility, and Shared Governance. She asked senators to be visible to your constituents and shared new avenues for consistent communication, including new highlight document that will be shared with Senators for distribution to constituents, the What's On Your Mind? Via an open, anonymous Qualtrics survey. She also reminded everyone that outreach to our constituents can be conducted via email, phone, in-person and noted potential challenges with privacy related to FOIA.

Dr. Watson updated the senate on the new schedule of engagement with Provost Usher, including new monthly FSEC meetings with the Provost.
The meeting was moved to the stairwell due to heat issues in Artis 310.

Dr. Kurt Gingrich shared a briefing on Robert's Rules of Order related to how Faculty Senate conducts business.

A special election was held to fill the FSEC At-Large position vacated by Dr. Fuhrer due to his selection as the DUC. Dr. Eric Choate and Dr. Laura Vernon were nominated via email for FSEC at large position. No further nominations from the floor. Dr. Eric Choate was elected to FSEC.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm for Faculty Senate Committee meetings.

Return to the Table of Contents

August 27, 2026

Radford University | Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Minutes
August 27, 2026

Attendance:

Angelini, Krystina
Archer, Alyssa
Biermeier-Hanson, Benjamin
Bryson, Julian
Carhart, Elliot
Castor, Tom
Choate, Eric
Close, Matthew
Devito, Anna
Duncan, Thomas
Farrell, Kevin
Fox, Jake
Fuhrer, Timothy
Gainer, Kim
Galeshi, Roofia
Gingrich, Kurt
Glass, Stephen
Gruss, Richard
Haynes, Jayme
Hendrix, Nicole
Huston, Shawn
Jenks, Judy
Krueger, Hannah
Lahn, Nathaniel
Lawrence, Nate
Lenhart, Michelle
Li, Yiwen
Liska, Luke
Meindl, Michael
Mesmer, Eric
Mills, Garth
Mullenbach, Kereen
Murray, Andrew
Murray, Joanna
Naleppa, Matthias
Page, Roby
Parsons, Bruce
Pelletier, Tara
Plekhanova, Inessa
Prince, Jessica
Riddle, Tara
Robinson, Stuart
Roe, Joshua
Sawyer, Will
Sherman, Gregory
Smith, Judy
Turner, Carter
Vernon, Laura
Watson, Courtney
Young, Wesley
Zuckerman, Sarah

Meeting called to order at 3:31 pm

University President Report: President Danilowicz could not attend.

Provost Report: Provost Usher shared that we have a current total headcount of 7,929 students, which is the highest it's been on this day in four years. She also shared that we're slightly up in grad students and slightly down in undergrads, but just by marginal amounts: retention and persistence are high, and that's due to your efforts. She also mentioned the review of our learning management system. The committee worked all summer and are currently narrowing it down to finalists. Active conversation is occurring to make sure that their presentations are available to and to have CITL be a place where people can come and play with dummy classes and get a feel for the systems. Look for more details in the Threads newsletter.

Work has also continued in the Roanoke building planning with an intention for making sure that first and second year students are going to be able to be supported, with the new gen ed, we can

offer a better undergraduate experience for first and second year students and be able to pull in two different populations to Radford University moving forward.
Provost Usher also discussed the focus on gen ed implementation this year. Information was also shared about the Artis College of Science and Technology dean search and she noted Senate's passing of handbook language for committee composition (*note: referring to* 24-25.02). The meeting with the college faculty has been scheduled. Faculty Senate and all of the other collaborators to be able to make nominations for the committee for the search committee itself. The expectation is that this is a national search for a dean for the college, welcoming internal candidates as well as external candidates. The kickoff for the search ad will occur in October. That probably means there are a couple months of collecting applications and reviews with candidates in early spring semester. Provost reminded everyone that committees do not rank the candidates. For any finalists, the committee recommends these people and indicates strengths and weaknesses of the candidates. Then we go into the silent phase where the Provost can conduct additional meetings to select the candidate and negotiations begin. Search committee is notified first, then the college, and then public

Q/A: Provost Usher was asked if the university's long-term intention is to have a permanent population of first-year and second-year students in Roanoke. Provost Usher stated that RU has had a steady decrease in the total number of first and second year students, and the retention in Roanoke has been poor. She shared that the new gen ed offered opportunities to be able to support a small population of freshmen and sophomores in Roanoke.

Provost Usher was also asked if it would be acceptable for the University Policy Committee to write or revise, not including something that comes from Richmond, a policy that contravenes the T&R Faculty Handbook. Provost Usher indicated that yes, that are situations where the handbooks are in conflict with one another and we need a university policy so we don't have versions that contradict each other across the handbooks. She went onto to say that we will then need to align the handbooks to be able to make sure that they're not conflicting with one another. The questioner went on to clarify that only when we're talking handbook alignment can that committee contravene the T&R handbook. Provost Usher indicated that won't necessarily be true but that would be the best case. The goal is not to have the policies committee override in general. The goal is that in the policies committee, we write policies that are for the university and that are appropriate for what we do. She stated the goal isn't to override the handbook to be able to do things.

Provost Usher was then asked a question about the timeline for elements like strategic budgeting for the vision for Roanoke. Provost Usher stated the goal for next semester and next year is that we're teaching the same number of credits that we always have, but we're shifting more resources to teaching them in person. So that shouldn't require more people, but it may require some strategic alignment of people in placement to be able to teach the same number of credits. She noted the increased retention of in-person classes which would require additional faculty resources. The questioner went on to acknowledge the need to support the relationships with Virginia Western.

Faculty Senate President Report: President Watson introduced Staff Senate President Fallon Kreye, AVP for RU Online Adam Barger, AVP for Health Sciences, Ashley Wells, and AP Faculty Senate President Malinda Tasler.

Faculty Senate President Report included a discussion of the outcomes of the retreat activity and survey identifying shared perspectives on Faculty Senate priorities for the year.

Dr. Nicole Hendrix shared an update (see shared slide) on the planning for Academic Governance Review. Dr. Stephen Glass, chair of the Faculty Senate Governance Committee, and Dr. Katie Hilden are part of the small working group that will be gathering input, revising the governance document and pathways, and working with the Governance and Curriculum committees to address needed changes. The group plans to solicit input from Faculty Senate, academic deans, the Council of Chairs, and Academic Affairs senior staff.

President Watson then turned to discussion of the University Policy Committee drafts and process. Dr. Matt Close shared a history of the committee and shared governance revision work from last year. Much discussion was had about the role of the committee, process for review and comment on policies, and concerns about the issue of the committee creating conflicts with the existing T&R Handbook.

Committee Reports:
Faculty Issues: Kevin Farrell was elected to serve another term as chair, with Michelle Lenhart serves as secretary. That committee will be closely examining faculty feedback on the outside employment policy, including meeting with Rob Hoover next week to talk through some of that feedback.

Governance: Dr. Stephen Glass was elected to serve as chair with Krystina Angelini serving as secretary. The committee is currently reviewing charges, hoping to finalize those at the coming committee meeting. These will likely include reviewing the handbook, governance documents, and the academic governance documents. The committee will also examine the Senate Constitution for any necessary updates. The dean's evaluation is a standing charge for the governance committee.

Campus Environment: Luke Liska was elected chair of the committee with Laura Vernon elected as secretary. The main charge for that committee is the faculty morale survey.

Resource Allocation: Alyssa Archer was elected chair, with Rich Gruss serving as secretary. We'll be finalizing our charges next week.

Curriculum: Eric Choate has been elected chair, while the committee may have a rotating secretary. The committee is working to finalize charges next week, though they will play a role in the academic governance review and focus on the general education implementation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm

Return to the Table of Contents

September 10, 2026

Faculty Senate Minutes: September 10, 2026

Attendance:

Angelini, Krystina
Archer, Alyssa
Beach, David
Biermeier-Hanson, Benjamin
Bryson, Julian
Carhart, Elliot
Castor, Tom
Choate, Eric
Close, Matthew
Devito, Anna
Duncan, Thomas
Farrell, Kevin
Fox, Jake
Fuhrer, Timothy
Gainer, Kim
Galeshi, Roofia
Gingrich, Kurt
Glass, Stephen
Gruss, Richard
Haynes, Jayme
Hendrix, Nicole
Huston, Shawn
Jenks, Judy
Krueger, Hannah
Lahn, Nathaniel
Lawrence, Nathaniel
Lenhart, Michelle
Li, Yiwen
Liska, Luke
Meindl, Michael
Mesmer, Eric
Mills, Garth
Mullenbach, Kereen
Murray, Andrew
Murray, Joanna
Naleppa, Matthias
Page, Roby
Parsons, Bruce
Pelletier, Tara
Plekhanova, Inessa
Prince, Jessica
Rackaway, Chapman
Riddle, Tara
Robinson, Stuart
Roe, Joshua
Sawyer, Will
Sherman, Gregory
Smith, Judy
Turner, Carter
Vernon, Laura
Watson, Courtney
Zuckerman, Sarah

Meeting called to order at 3:31 pm

Approval of minutes by acclamation.

I. University President report: President Danilowicz shared four updates- 1) Final headcount was over 7900 with retention slightly below 80%. He also noted high retention for Pell students. 2) President is exploring ideas around some kind of career commitment could be, like found at Southern Arkansas University. This would allow us to follow students who are not able to get a job or into graduate school and provide some sort of extra support. This is in the very beginning stages of discussion. 3) The format of the Coffee with the President is changing to a more digital town hall style format. The first will be on the Center for Rural Health. 4) University counsel can advise our entities on policies but not the intersection of people and policies specific to individuals or cases. More information to come, including training for faculty appeals and grievance committees.

II. Provost report: Provost Usher was not able to join our meeting.

III. Faculty Senate President Report: President Watson shared one of the What's on your mind? survey questions related to whether merging of departments is a priority for the Provost. President Watson shared that in a meeting with Provost Usher, she stated that these were not a priority and were not coming from the administration. The Provost also stated that these should be department led.

President Watson also updated everyone on the University Policies Committee (UPC), noting high engagement with the Faculty Senate Qualtrics survey. That survey has resulted in revisions and meetings with our committees by members of UPC. Also noted was the upcoming launch and use of DocTract (like used at VCU) to facilitate the review. Senate will maintain its own input structures to help support her work on the committee and participation in the university shared governance process.

President Watson also noted the convening for the University Shared Governance Committee coming next week. She identified the faculty members and noted the work coming for USGRC that includes review of the UPC policies as they head to the President for approval. You can find the pathways for this process here.

President Watson shared her report time with Dr. Tim Fuhrer, the Director of Undergraduate Curriculum. Dr. Fuhrer shared that all courses that will be included in the general education starting next year (27-28) will require a Curriculog course proposal, including courses already conditionally approved. He also reminded everyone about the curriculum deadline of December 1, 2026 for launching all course proposals.

IV. Faculty Senate Committees reports:

a. Campus Environment: CEC met with the Dean of Students about animals on campus. One pager available here to help guide understanding.
b. Curriculum: Committee is examining the waiver for RADF 101 and a new motion concerning writing intensive courses.
c. Faculty Issues: Committee met with Rob Hoover about the Outside Employment Policy and is working on a formal response to the policy.
d. Governance: Committee began work on the academic governance document review and revision. Expecting it to take the full year to engage and support this work.
e. Resource Allocation: RAC reviewed the two new travel policies and met with Deana Sentman from UPC about these. The committee offered no suggestions for revision on the university travel policy. The committee will be working to provide written feedback on the local travel policy. President Watson will vote yes on these.

V. Old Business: None

VI. New Business: Motion 26-27.01 Motion to Preserve the Existing Upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) Requirement

VII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm

Return to the Table of Contents

September 24, 2026

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes: September 24, 2026

Attendance:

Angelini, Krystina
Archer, Alyssa
Biermeier-Hanson, Benjamin
Bryson, Julian
Carhart, Elliot
Castor, Tom
Choate, Eric
Close, Matthew
Devito, Anna
Duncan, Thomas
Farrell, Kevin
Fox, Jake
Gainer, Kim
Galeshi, Roofia
Gingrich, Kurt
Glass, Stephen
Gruss, Richard
Haynes, Jayme
Hendrix, Nicole
Huston, Shawn
Krueger, Hannah
Lahn, Nathaniel
Lenhart, Michelle
Li, Yiwen
Liska, Luke
Meindl, Michael
Mesmer, Eric
Mills, Garth
Mullenbach, Kereen
Murray, Andrew
Murray, Joanna
Naleppa, Matthias
Page, Roby
Parsons, Bruce
Pelletier, Tara
Plekhanova, Inessa
Prince, Jessica
Rackaway, Chapman
Riddle, Tara
Robinson, Stuart
Roe, Joshua
Sawyer, Will
Sherman, Gregory
Smith, Judy
Stefaniak, Kristina (sub for Tim Fuhrer)
Turner, Carter
Vernon, Laura
Watson, Courtney
Young, Wesley
Zuckerman, Sarah

Approval of minutes by acclamation.
University President report: President Danilowicz shared three updates- 1) Tartan Transfer summit was held with all ten community college partners. 2) Lt. Governor Ghazala Hashmi was on campus this week. 3) Two shout outs: CEHD apprentice program has been identified as the top apprenticeship program in the Commonwealth and our Financial Aid office has been identified as utilizing the Commonwealth's best practice.

Provost report: Provost Usher shared her appreciation for the outpouring of support following the passing of her father. She appreciated all of the support and flexibility our campus has given her during this time. Provost reminded us about the October 31st deadline for completion of the ACUE AI modules. She said that 177 people have begun these. Provost Usher shared her time with Dr. Jessica Stowell for updates related to general education assessment.

Dr. Stowell stated: General education assessment will be conducted using embedded course assignments that align with the approved learning outcomes. Faculty teaching the course will have discretion in selecting the assignment or assignments used for assessment, recognizing that different disciplines and pedagogical approaches may demonstrate student learning in different ways. So as a result, assignments may vary across courses and even across sections of the same course. The common element is not the assignment, but the learning outcome and the rubric used to evaluate achievement. This approach preserves faculty ownership of the curriculum and pedagogy while ensuring that we can collect meaningful evidence around student achievement of the gen ed learning outcomes. She went onto to say that her office would be using a three-year cycle as recommended by the assessment subcommittee. They voted unanimously to approve a model where year one, the launch year is no assessment. Year 2 will include assessment of half of the learning outcomes, and year three assessment of the other half. Then the following year, (year one of the next cycle) will be used for reflection, discussion of findings, implementation of improvements, and consideration of any needs to revise the assessment methods or learning outcomes.

Dr. Stowell was asked if the assignments are being designed by faculty within their departments or provided elsewhere. She responded that faculty in the courses design the assignments. She noted that this is 100% faculty choice. She reiterated that faculty are the experts in their fields and know what in their classes demonstrates the learning outcomes. She said that they are trusting faculty to identify an assignment but that her office is present as a resource to support this work. Dr. Stowell was followed up with related to the process for identifying the assessment strategies. Dr. Stowell referenced the ability within the LMS (currently D2L) to provide a rubric in the system used to evaluate the student learning outcomes. Her office will collect the rubric score.

Dr. Stowell was asked another question about whether student work would be pulled or the score from the rubric. The questioner referenced written work that might need to be scanned. Dr. Stowell said there are two models. One just pulls the score from the rubric or form. The other collects students work samples and evaluates those by a group of trained raters. This is the next big decision by the assessment committee. She clarified that this decision has not been made yet.

Dr. Stowell was asked about the timeline for sharing the rubrics. She stated rubrics are in progress and expected sometime this fall.

Dr. Stowell was asked about student assessment being used as part of faculty evaluation. Dr. Stowell firmly stated that student learning assessment is not in any way, shape, or form faculty evaluation. Provost Usher affirmed.

Dr. Stowell was asked about situations where faculty may not know the best items to use for assessment and can fill out the rubric without someone assessing the items used for assessment. Dr. Stowell mentioned that there would be workshops offered in the spring to help support the development of assessment.

AVP for RU Online Adam Barger updated Faculty Senate on the LMS search. Because of the confidentiality of the process, widespread faculty engagement with the potential options is not possible. Two instructional faculty are on the committee, though 30 reviewers have been invited into the process. Dr. Barger was asked about timeline and noted selection is expected by the end of the semester with soft launch Fall 2027. There will be overlap in the old and new systems. Dr. Barger was asked about faculty involvement in narrowing down the finalists. The process was reiterated and the use of volunteers who could review all three finalists. Several faculty from each college and instructional librarians are included.

Faculty Senate President Report: President Watson shared updates from the University Policies Committee. DocTract will be up and running in October to help facilitate review and comment on policy revisions and development. New policies about hazing, social media, sales and solicitation, and non-fraternization are upcoming.

FS Committees:

Campus Environment: The committee provided feedback on the smoking policy to FSEC. Working on the faculty morale survey with work hoping to be done in the next month. Dr. Liska, chair of the committee, was asked about plans to disseminate the morale survey information and indicated that the committee will discuss this in the next meeting.

Curriculum: The committee met with Jerel Benton about RADF 101 and discussed the plan to restructure advising. A joint meeting with governance was also had to discuss the academic governance review. Motion from that committee in old business.

Faculty Issues: Committee worked on finalizing and prioritizing charges as their first meeting was focused on meeting with Rob Hoover. They have begun work on handbook language review about reappointment for special purpose faculty and will be examining the social media policy.

Governance: The committee continued work on the academic governance document review and revision with specific revisions planned for the October 15th committee meeting.

Resource Allocation: The committee looked at specific recommendations for the local travel policy, particularly related to IRS and Commonwealth rules. Two revisions were recommended: changes in the tiers and ability to unenroll in the program. A request was also made for a faculty representative on the committee to select our university travel provider. Also noted that a new chatbot will be implemented to help answer questions related to travel. There is also a form to request exceptions related to specific travel rules, such as cheaper options for travel when baggage is added. There is a Kuali form for this request.

Old Business: Motion 26-27.01 Motion to Preserve the Existing Upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) Requirement, Motion was discussed and tabled until the next meeting pending review of assessment data on the current WI requirement.

New Business: Motion 26-27.02 Motion for Find Your Place Waiver read in as new business.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Return to the Table of Contents

October 8, 2026

Faculty Senate Minutes: October 8, 2026

Attendance:

Angelini, Krystina	Glass, Stephen	Page, Roby
Archer, Alyssa	Gruss, Richard	Parsons, Bruce
Biermeier-Hanson, Benjamin	Hendrix, Nicole	Pelletier, Tara
Bryson, Julian	Huston, Shawn	Plekhanova, Inessa
Carhart, Elliot	Krueger, Hannah	Prince, Jessica
Castor, Tom	Lahn, Nathaniel	Rackaway, Chapman
Choate, Eric	Lawrence, Nathaniel	Riddle, Tara
Close, Matthew	Lenhart, Michelle	Robinson, Stuart
Devito, Anna	Li, Yiwen	Roe, Joshua
Duncan, Thomas	Liska, Luke	Sawyer, Will
Farrell, Kevin	Meindl, Michael	Sherman, Gregory
Fox, Jake	Mesmer, Eric	Smith, Judy
Fuhrer, Timothy	Mills, Garth	Turner, Carter
Gainer, Kim	Mullenbach, Kereen	Vernon, Laura
Galeshi, Roofia	Murray, Andrew	Watson, Courtney
Gingrich, Kurt	Murray, Joanna	Young, Wesley
	Naleppa, Matthias	Zuckerman, Sarah

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm.

Approval of minutes by acclamation.

University President report: The University has received a call from a reporter who indicated that a student had reached out because they were unhappy with how the university had managed one of their interactions at the institution. The incident involves a female student and a fraternity. A blue ribbon task force on renewing our standards of conduct is being put together to examine university standards and process. President is meeting with SGA on Monday. Chief of Staff, Ryan Bowyer, will chair of that group, to have three students on it that are selected by SGA. Three faculty selected by Faculty Senate Executive Council will also serve on the task force,

along with someone from SAVES. President Danilowicz also asked that faculty provide feedback on consideration of Dr. Gentry McCreary for this task force.

Provost Report: Provost Usher was not able to attend the meeting.

Faculty Senate President report: Attention was called to communication about University Policies Committee, including information about specific dates for the review periods that are coming up, specifically the outside employment policy. The committee is now conducting simultaneous review and possible revision happening on in the T&R handbook and the AP handbook at the same time. Also noted the University Shared Governance Review Committee (USGRC) is also meeting.

Question was asked about access to the policies listed in the email. President Watson noted that all faculty should have access. She also noted that senators and T&R faculty should route their feedback through Senate's Qualtrics to help her communicate faculty concerns. President Watson was also asked revisions to the weapons policy that was discussed earlier this semester.

Committee Reports:
Campus Environment Committee: The committee continues their work on the faculty morale survey. Dr. Liska also met with SGA to identify issues for collaboration and areas where Senate can support student concerns. They will be visiting with us at the October 22 meeting.

Curriculum Committee: Two motions in old business, one motion in new business. The committee also met with some members of the implementation committee for assessment of the new general education program.

Faculty Issues Committee: The committee has an upcoming meeting with Provost Usher about Outside Employment policy and handbook issues. The committee has also undertaken examination of social media policy and issues surrounding compensation for faculty members who take on key roles such as department chair,
assistant chair, associate chair, program director, etc.

Governance Committee: The committee continues review of the academic governance document and closely tracking anything coming from USGRC.

Resource Allocation Committee: The committee is developing questions for several guests that we're going to invite, including the registrar and the assistant registrar in coordination with

campus environment to talk about classroom assignments. They are also developing questions for later conversations with the Provost and the Vice President of Finance and Administration.

Questions were asked by senators related to general education assessment and the three different approaches that they're considering. Senators were encouraged to share the assessment models with your constituents and shared feedback with Dr. Anne DeVito, who sits on that committee. Feedback needs to be shared by the committee meeting at noon on Tuesday, October 13th.

Old Business:
Motion 26-27.01 Motion to Preserve the Existing Upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) Requirement failed. Vote: 18 ayes, 28 nays, and 1 abstention.

Motion 26-27.02 Motion to Allow Waivers of the Find Your Place Requirement was introduced but time ran out and the meeting ended.

Meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

Return to the Table of Contents

October 22, 2026

Radford University | Faculty Senate

DRAFT

Attendance:

Angelini, Krystina	Gruss, Richard	Page, Roby
Archer, Alyssa	Haynes, Jayme	Parsons, Bruce
Beach, David (sub for KFarrell)	Hendrix, Nicole	Pelletier, Tara
Biermeier-Hanson, Benjamin	Huston, Shawn	Plekhanova, Inessa
Bryson, Julian	Krueger, Hannah	Prince, Jessica
Carhart, Elliot	Lahn, Nathaniel	Riddle, Tara
Castor, Tom	Lenhart, Michelle	Roe, Joshua
Choate, Eric	Li, Yiwen	Sawyer, Will
Close, Matthew	Liska, Luke	Sherman, Gregory
Devito, Anna	Liss, Sandy	Smith, Judy
Duncan, Thomas	Meindl, Michael	Turner, Carter
Fox, Jake	Mesmer, Eric	Vernon, Laura
Fuhrer, Timothy	Mills, Garth	Watson, Courtney
Gainer, Kim	Mullenbach, Kereen	Young, Wesley
Galeshi, Roofia	Murray, Andrew	Zuckerman, Sarah
Gingrich, Kurt	Murray, Joanna	
Glass, Stephen	Naleppa, Matthias	

Meeting called to order at 3:31 pm

Student Government Association President, Rylee Meadows shared an introduction and the goals for SGA this year. SGA is currently working on resolutions related to security cameras in apartment parking lots, a syllabi resolution, and working with the Registrar's Office on helping student navigate registering for classes.

Dean Bruce Hayden, Dean of Students shared a brief overview of conduct processes, and context for the email that went out to senators and Greek life. Dean Hayden was asked how often the process gets audited and reviewed. Dean Hayden indicated that the process is always being looked at. Dean Hayden was also asked if there is any place that keeps track of how often the process is followed or implemented, how many cases in a given year. Dean Hayden indicated that there is a secure database system for Dean of Students and one for Student Standards of Conduct. Every contact and every case is documented in there. Also asked if that information is available for review. Dean Hayden referred to the annual reports and the Clery report. Dean Hayden was also asked: Given the longstanding national history of hazing, sexual misconduct, and even student deaths associated with Greek life, as well as recent allegations here at Radford

University, at what point do we critically evaluate whether the benefits of maintaining Greek life outweigh the risks to student safety and well-being? Has the university considered a comprehensive review of whether Greek life in its current structure or in any structure aligns with our institutional values and responsibility to protect students? Dean Hayden indicated he was not in a position to answer that question.
Dean Hayden was also asked: What actions, if any, have or will be taken in response to concerns about employees, how employees in Title IX and student conduct offices manage victims' cases, particularly sexual assault? Dean Hayden
Indicated that Title IX and Office of Compliance is not under his area. His area works closely with campus partners but could not give more details or answer that more fully.

University President report: President met with the four individuals who are organizing the rally for Friday. He reported they had a great conversation and it was really helpful for him to understand the points behind what they were trying to communicate to the university through their rally. And again, it was a very constructive conversation. President was preparing to charge the presidential task force and then sending out the charge statement and the membership to all the representative bodies (Faculty Senate, AP Senate, Staff Senate, and SGA). President Bret also recognized Jessica Prince, Michelle Ren, and Lindsay Semprevivo, who will be representing faculty and the students, Rylie Meadows, Mia Ortiz, and Tyreek Taylor. President Bret noted the focus of the task force on prevention of sexual assault. The task force recommendations are due by April 14th. Those will be distributed again to all four of the representative bodies, the board of visitors, and Cabinet.

Provost Report: Provost Usher reminded faculty about the 2026 Annual Safety and Security Report (https://www.radford.edu/police/_documents/annual-security-and-fire-safety-2026.pdf) Provost Usher also noted that faculty have many questions have come up about how to support students. Reminded us not to take on too much burden in terms of individual counseling. Students received e-mails this week for support and encouraged faculty to direct students to support services. Provost Usher mentioned several resources (see link: the Let's Talk sessions that the Counseling Center holds regularly, they're open and available to students. So if you've got any questions about that, you can ask me, you can ask Trisha, but I appreciate very much how much people are thinking about caring for the students and how to make sure to support them. See this link for addition information: https://www.radford.edu/student-counseling/index.html Provost Usher was asked about an update on the search for Vice President for Student Affairs. Provost Usher shared that the committee is in the final stages and has been scheduling finalists.

Committee Reports:
Campus Environment Committee: Committee is making good progress on the Faculty Morale Survey and working to consider how best to facilitate campus discussions around the survey results.

Curriculum Committee Motions in old and new business from this committee. Committee is also discussing the assessment committee gen ed and the new advising policy. The committee is hoping to meet with Jarel Benton about new advising changes.

Faculty issues Committee: Committee will meet with the provost in person about the extra employment policy and sent feedback to FSEC on the social media policy. The committee is also working on one charge related to extra role compensation, such as chairs, associate chairs, program directors, etc…

Governance Committee: Committee has reviewed and pre-finalized internal recommendations for revising the academic governance documents.

Resource Allocation Committee: Committee is meeting with the University Registrar and Assistant Registrar next week to ask questions about how classrooms are allocated, what resources are behind them, and we appreciate partnering with Campus Environment on that. Looking forward to a good conversation came about because of just the questions about getting from one set of campus to the other within 10 minutes, but some other things came out of our conversation, developing your questions and thanks to everyone on the committee for their work and thinking through those carefully.

Old Business:
Motino 26-27.02, Motion for the Find Your Place waiver. Motion failed – 18 in favor. 24 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

Motion to move Motion 26-27.03 into new business. Motion passed.

Motion 26-27-03, Motion to Add Minimum Grade Requirement for Honors College Credit. Motion passed. Voting: 341 in favor, one opposed, and two abstentions.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Return to the Table of Contents

November 5, 2026

Return to the Table of Contents

November 19, 2026



Return to the Table of Contents

December 3, 2026



Return to the Table of Contents

January 14, 2027



Return to the Table of Contents

January 28, 2027



Return to the Table of Contents

February 11, 2027



Return to the Table of Contents

February 25, 2027

Return to the Table of Contents

March 18, 2027



Return to the Table of Contents

April 1, 2027

Return to the Table of Contents

April 15, 2027

Return to the Table of Contents

April 22, 2027



Return to the Table of Contents