



Radford
UNIVERSITY

Student Affairs

November 21, 2025

Sent via email

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi
Chair, Senate Committee on Education and Health
Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Sam Rasoul
Chair, House Committee on Education
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Governor Youngkin, Chairwoman Hashmi, and Chairman Rasoul,

In accordance with §23.1-401.1 of the Code of Virginia, entitled “Constitutionally protected speech; policies, materials, and reports; report,” Radford University provides this compliance report, as detailed herein.

Radford University’s [Free Expression Policy](#) provides a framework to promote and facilitate free expression, provides a secure environment for such expression, preserves order within the University community, and protects and preserves University property. The policy further clarifies procedures for conducting free expression activities on University Property.

The Free Expression Policy defines the process of reporting incidents of disruption to the Office of Institutional Equity. Information about filing a complaint is also noted in the [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) in the Office of Compliance and on the [Student Complaints](#) page on the Dean of Students website.

Other University policies, such as the [Standards of Student Conduct](#); [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#); [Use of University Facilities Policy](#); and [Posting, Chalking, and Distribution of Informational Materials Policy](#) reinforce and support the University’s Free Expression Policy. Radford also has the [Face Concealment Policy](#) that aligns Virginia law. These policies are cross- referenced and are noted on university websites (e.g., Event Planning page under Student Involvement and the University Scheduling Office). The University regularly reviews policies, making updates as appropriate or necessary to ensure specificity and clarity for students, staff, and others.

The *Basis and Rationale for the Standards of Student Conduct*, Section 1.A, states:

“Radford University (University) is committed to fostering an environment that is; safe and secure; inclusive; and conducive to academic inquiry, free expression, student engagement, and student success. An academic community exists on the basis of shared values and principles. At the University, student members of the community are expected to uphold and abide by these values and principles that form the basis of the *Standards of Student Conduct (Standards)*. These *Standards* are embodied within a set of core values that include integrity, fairness, respect, trust, freedom, community, and responsibility. When student members of the community fail to exemplify these values, student conduct proceedings are used to assert and uphold the *Standards*. All students are expected to assume responsibility for their conduct. The student conduct process exists to protect the interests of the University community, and to educate and respond to those students whose behavior is not in accordance with the *Standards*.”

University Policies are communicated through various communication channels such as e-mail communication, resource cards, and training.

Using the guidance of the *Bipartisan Policy Center's Roadmap for Campus Free Expression*, the Radford University Task Force for Civil Discourse and Freedom of Expression, convened between November 2022 – April 2023 and aspired to create and support opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to build skills for and engage in constructive dialogue across differences with the goals of collaborative problem-solving, increasing a sense of trust and inclusion, and supporting freedom of expression for all constituents. Although the work of the task force concluded, the resulting framework, which outlined the curricular, co-curricular and administrative approach to guide skill development and dispositions for constructive dialog across perspectives and differences; instill a sense of trust, and belonging; align University policies and procedures with the University’s commitment to constructive dialog and freedom of expression; continues to sustain opportunities for the practice of constructive dialog and freedom of expression.

The Civil Discourse and Freedom of Expression Work Group began leading a series of discussions, known as Common Grounds, to which all employees and students were invited. The topics for each discussion were as follows:

- “Are social assistance programs like Medicaid a human right? Are they serving everyone equally.”
- "What is the role of higher education (including students, faculty, and leadership) in encouraging freedom of expression, academic freedom, and the exploration of difficult ideas in a political landscape where these activities may be constrained?"
- "What does safety, belonging, and free expression on campus and beyond mean to you right now?"
- "What is fascism, and is there a fascist movement brewing in America?"

Radford University continues to partner with SCHEV to use the Constructive Dialog Institute's "Perspectives" program in courses and departments. Perspectives and Constructive Dialog in Classes workshops are offered multiple times during the year.

The University's Division of Student Affairs facilitates programs and conversations centered around civil discourse as well as helping students feel comfortable and equipped to exercise their voices. In addition to programming, the University's Free Expression Policy coupled with resources for supporting students and student organizations is shared and reviewed with the Student Affairs Leadership Team.

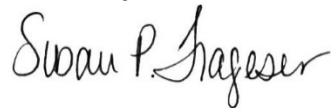
In relation to free speech, the University maintains its achievement of the top "green light" rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE). Currently, Radford is one of five universities in Virginia, and one of only 73 nationwide, to earn this rating.

Radford University certifies that policies and materials on the policies have been established and the University has notified employees responsible for the discipline or education of enrolled students of such materials.

No complaint has been filed in a court of law since December 1, 2024, to initiate a lawsuit against Radford University, or any employee of Radford University in his or her official capacity, for an alleged violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

As stated in the Free Expression policy, the University celebrates the right to freedom of expression on University property. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the vibrancy and vitality of the University community. The University values and honors broad perspectives and believes that opportunity should be provided to engage in peaceful and orderly protests and demonstrations.

Sincerely,



Susan P. Trageser, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

cc: Bret S. Danilowicz, Ph.D., President
Ryan Bower, Ed.D., Chief of Staff
Lisa M. Ghidotti, Executive Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives