Radford University

College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

CHBS Advisory Board

Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes – September 30, 4:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order for Fall Board Meeting:**

Board Chair Scott Light called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

1. **Roll Call**

Secretary Jonna McGraw called the roll. Present in person or remotely were Mike Ashley, Sherrie Austin, Jim Bove, Jake Crocker, Pattie DeLoatche, Katelyn Dobbins, Jim Egbert, Jane Elizabeth, Scott Light, Curtis Martin, Zach McCoy, Jonna McGraw, Cynthia Price, John Shehan, Paula Squires, Holly Stein, Lisa Throckmorton, Dante Washington, Karen Wheeler, and Denise White.

1. **Motion of Board Membership Committee**

Jim Egbert, Board Membership Committee Chair, made a motion that Board membership for the following members be extended for an additional three-year term ending June 30, 2025: Scott Light, Zach McCoy, Cynthia Price, Ed Reams, and Paula Squires. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

1. **Approval of Spring 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Board Chair Scott Light made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Spring 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

1. **University Reports**
2. Update on the College (Dr. Matthew J. Smith, Dean)
3. Inauguration of President Bret Danilowicz: The ceremony took place at 10:00. Lisa Throckmorton was recognized for her role in organizing the inauguration.
4. STARS (Student Travel and Research Support):

Emmie Maurer, a recipient of funds through the STARS program, presented a testimonial and answered questions from Board members. The funds allowed her to attend the Southern Regional Model UN in Atlanta. She discussed the benefits she received through participation, including improved negotiation, public speaking, debate, leadership and planning skills. She also appreciated the opportunity to interact with students from other schools and experience the culture of Atlanta.

Dean Smith reported that 32 students received funds from STARS last year. Approximately $12,000 was raised. This semester $13,000 has already been contributed and another $4,000 is expected soon.

1. Board Logo: The logo was created to provide a visual identity for the Board. Members were given a lapel pin with the new logo.
2. Website: Please provide a biography and headshot for the website if you have not done so. It is a way for Board members to be recognized visually and for people to learn about them.
3. Summer Conversations with Dean Smith: The Dean appreciated the individual conversation he had with each Board member during the summer.
4. Mentorships: 95% of the Board is now connected with a faculty member. This is a good way for members to connect with and develop relationships with students.
5. Wicked Festival: The Wicked Festival (“Festival”) is an exposition of student problem solving which has become popular on campus. Faculty from several programs, including political science, philosophy, marketing, and English have been involved. Dean Smith said Dr. Paige Tan (Political Science) is the linchpin for the Festival. The Festival has twice outgrown the space it was and is moving to Kyle Hall for the next event which will take place on November 10. Paul Hanstedt, the author of the book *Creating Wicked Students*,will be at the Festival.
6. Update on Advancement (Dr. Carter Turner, Associate Director of Advancement)
7. Continuing to march forward toward the $100 million campaign goal. It is difficult to fundraise when there is an interim president. Larger gifts are expected now that the new president is on board
8. Over the last nine months, the percentage of faculty giving has increased. The amount of the contribution is not significant; rather it is the percentage of participation that matters when approaching corporations for contributions. The national average is 25% of faculty participating. Radford now has 29% participation.
9. Marie Waters, a 1954 graduate and a psychology department faculty member for almost 30 years, has made a $350,000 gift to be used for psychology programs (not scholarships). The Fund is called the Minor Wise Thomas Fund, named after the professor who started the psychology program in 1928.
10. Naming of Courtroom: A gift agreement to name the courtroom is being finalized. The funds will go directly toward the mock trial program. The naming ceremony will be held in February.
11. Mike Ashley Scholarship: Jim Bove and Chris King initiated a scholarship in honor of Mike Ashley. The scholarship will be for students in Communications, Media & Public Relations. In the five years Carter Turner has been in his role, this has been the easiest scholarship for which to raise funds.
12. Wendy Lowery, Vice President of Advancement & University Relations: Dr. Lowery has left Radford University. Her replacement will likely be hired in the spring and begin work during the summer.
13. Alumni Giving: Nationally, 7% of alumni donate to their alma mater. Only 1.9% of Radford University alumni donate. The percentage of alumni giving is more important than the amount given. Percentage of alumni contributing is a factor in US News & World Report college rankings. There is a need to create a better system for tracking alumni beginning with communication with students prior to graduation.
14. **Committee Reports**
15. Awards Committee (Mike Ashley, Chair)

Mike Ashley is chairing the Committee after Sherri Fisher moved to the Alumni Board. There were four good nominees this year which may be a result of university-wide advertising.

1. Board Membership Committee (Jim Egbert, Chair)

Sherri Fisher and Jeff Coshland will not be continuing on the Board. Two people, Dr. Kay Dunkley (1973) and Brigadier General (Retired) James Bienlieu (1990) have been recommended for membership on the Board. The Board will have 30 members if these two are approved.

1. Fundraising (Jeff MacKinnon, Chair)

No report.

1. Career Preparation (John Shehan, Chair)

All current Board members are now paired with a faculty member. Six Board members came to campus to lecture last semester and others participated remotely. Five members met with the Fall Ambassadors and had an excellent exchange. There was discussion of a CHBS-linked page for alumni and students to foster regular interaction between alumni and students.

1. Prelaw (Curtis Martin)

The prelaw kickoff was in the fall of 2016. This year, the Prelaw Society is being rebranded to become the Radford University Law Society which will also be open to alumni working in law. Dean Smith and Carter Turner were recognized for their work, in collaboration with Dr. Allyson Yankle (Assistant Professor of Political Science) and Mr. Don Martin (Criminal Justice Instructor), in the creation of a Legal Studies minor and a competitive moot court team The Law Society will be publishing a quarterly newsletter beginning this month.

Panel discussions will be held on October 17 and November 15 to discuss law school and to spotlight legal careers, respectively.

1. **Old Business**
2. Board financial commitment.

Scott Light reported that there were 25 responses to the survey regarding whether to require a financial commitment in order to serve on the Board. There was a 13/12 split. A discussion took place regarding time, treasure, talent contributions and looking at it as a matter of culture instead of a prescriptive measure. It was pointed out that participation, rather than the amount of a donation, is the important factor when approaching businesses for contributions and for public relations. It would be beneficial to say there is 100% participation by Board members. Last year, 66% of Board members made a financial contribution; this year, 50% have contributed. It was pointed out the requirement does not seem to fit the RU identity which includes many first- generation college students. There are also circumstances, such as job loss, under which Board members who normally contribute are not able to every year. The constitution would need to be amended to provide for mandatory contributions. It was stated that a motion to require a monetary contribution would be improper because it runs afoul of the constitution. The initiative to make a financial contribution mandatory for Board membership is being dropped.

1. **New Business**
2. New Board Members

Biographies of Dr. Kay Dunkley (1973) and Brigadier General (Retired) James Bienlieu (1990) were emailed to Board members for review prior to the meeting. Both were recommended for Board membership by Scott Light.

Jim Egbert, Board Membership Chair, made a motion for James (Jay) Bienlieu to become a Board member. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Egbert made a motion for Kay Dunkley to become a member of the Board. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

1. **Election of Officers**

Nominations and votes to approve the election of the following officers took place individually:

Chair: Scott Light

Vice Chair: Cynthia Price

Secretary: John Shehan

Each was unanimously elected to the respective position.

1. **Matching Contribution**

Cynthia Price offered to match up to $500 for a contribution by someone who had not yet contributed to Radford University this year.

1. **Adjournment**