

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 2, 2021

**MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM
MARTIN HALL, THIRD FLOOR, RADFORD, VA**

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair
Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair
Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes
Mr. David Smith
Dr. Katie Hilden, Non-voting Faculty Advisory Member

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT

Ms. Charlene A. Curtis

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Mr. Robert Archer, Rector

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Carolyn R. Lepre, Interim President
Ms. Karen Castele, 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
Dr. Joe Wirgau, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship
Skylar Roberson, Radford University Student
Sam Williams, Radford University Student
Luc White, Radford University Student

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 December 2, 2021 meeting agenda for the Academic Excellence and Research Committee. Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes so moved, Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Brewster asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting of the Academic Excellence and Research Committee, as published. Dr. 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, Ph.D. began his report by sharing that the fall 2021 semester has been very successful in Academic Affairs with the implementation of the REAL curriculum, as well as planning for the development of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and submission of the Compliance Certification Report. Interim Provost Rogers shared that the first seven faculty appointments as Academic Leadership Fellows (AL Fellows) were announced on September 3, 2021. The AL Fellows program is designed to support leadership development and continuing student support through campus-wide faculty-student engagement. Interim Provost Rogers shared that the Academic Success Center, the Center for Career and Talent Development and many University faculty were present on October 4, 2021 to provide 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. The curriculum features majors in 43 areas of study and more than 90 minors.

Interim Provost Rogers provided an update on faculty receiving emeritus status, including:

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

Interim Provost Rogers shared information regarding reorganization in the Office of the Provost, including the position of Budget and Human Resources Manager for Academic Affairs will be filled by Ms. Vickie Taylor; the position of Executive Assistant to the Provost will be filled by Ms. Rhonda Conner; the position of Associate Provost for Research, Faculty Success and Strategic Initiatives has been filled by Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick through a modification of her position of Associate Provost for Academic Programs; the position of Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education has been filled by Dr. Nicole Hendrix through a modification of her position of Executive Director of General Education.

Interim Provost Rogers reported that Mr. Paul Orkiszewski has been appointed Dean of the Libraries and is currently serving as Interim Dean of the Libraries at Appalachian State University where he leads 39 faculty and 55 staff in fulfilling the teaching and learning mission of the university Libraries with a budget of more than \$10 million. He earned a Bachelor of

Music degree and a Master of Music degree from Rice University, as well as a Master of Library and Information Science degree from University of Texas at Austin.

In conclusion, Interim Provost Rogers stated that the Surgical Technology Program at Radford University Carilion in the Waldron College of Health and Human Services is an associate 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 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.

Sense of Belonging Through Research Presentation

Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Joe Wirgau, Ph.D. began the presentation by providing an overview of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS) and describing their use of four pillars- providing opportunities to present internally and externally, increasing the number of students gaining access to undergraduate research, provide students with the tools needed to leverage these experiences, and develop and support the faculty who provide these opportunities. Dr. Wirgau introduced students Skylar Roberson, Sam Williams and Luc White who shared their experiences and the positive impact the program and mentorship have made in their lives.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Faculty Senate President Katie Hilden, Ph.D. provided information on three initiatives that showcase how faculty are proactively engaging in efforts to maintain the academic health at Radford University. The Course Minimums Committee has studied the trend of low enrolled courses at Radford and examined how other universities have developed policies and procedures around courses with low enrollment. A policy was drafted last spring and deans piloted it this summer with chairs. A University-wide system now exists for collecting course enrollment data to examine trends across and within colleges. The Academic Program Review for 2021-2022 academic year has paused due to faculty recognizing that the current process hasn't worked and to initiate revision of the Academic Program Review and Enhancement Committee's composition and charge. Additionally, a Working Group has been created to develop criteria that could be applied when filling open or vacant faculty positions.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Brewster adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda D. Conner
Administrative Assistant to the Office of the Provost

End of Board of Visitors Materials

