

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**FEBRUARY 12, 2021**  
**ART MUSEUM**  
**COVINGTON CENTER, RADFORD, VA**

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Robert A. Archer, Rector  
Dr. Thomas Brewster  
Mr. Gregory A. Burton  
Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston  
Mr. Mark S. Lawrence, Ex officio  
Dr. Debra K. McMahon  
Ms. Lisa Throckmorton

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. James R. Kibler, Jr., Vice Rector  
Dr. Jay A. Brown

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill, President  
Ms. Karen Castele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President  
Ms. Ashley Schumaker, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategic Operations  
Mr. Allen T. Wilson, Assistant Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Robert A. Archer, Rector, called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Art Museum of the Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts. Rector Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Committee members for their flexibility and safety regarding the inclement weather and two-hour meeting delay.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Rector Archer asked for a motion to approve the February 12, 2021 meeting agenda, as published. Dr. Debra K. McMahon so moved, Ms. Lisa Throckmorton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rector Archer asked for a motion to approve the December 4, 2020 minutes of the Executive Committee meeting. Dr. McMahon so moved, Mr. Gregory A. Burton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. updated the Executive Committee on the COVID-19 continued response and ongoing planning. He began by detailing the Spring 2021 testing opportunities for both the main campus and Radford University Carilion (RUC). Students on the main campus have access to daily walk-up or open testing. They can also make appointments to be seen and tested in the Student Health Center during regular business hours. Faculty and staff on the main campus have access to walk-up or open testing Monday through Thursday. He added that at RUC, students, faculty and staff have access to weekly walk-up and open testing every Friday.

President Hemphill shared that the University continues to work on plans for Commencement. He stated that the University is committed to meeting a March 1 deadline for sharing information with graduates, while at the same time awaiting additional information from the Commonwealth regarding potential gathering limits for late April and early May.

President Hemphill continued by sharing that the COVID-19 Working Group is preparing a set of recommendations for Summer 2021. Those recommendations will also be provided by March 1 and likely include a prioritization regarding activities and programs to be offered over the summer. President Hemphill said the University is committed to providing an in-person orientation experience for new students, but must do so in accordance with state guidelines, and also has a strong commitment to signature summer programming like Boys State and Governor's School.

In conclusion, President Hemphill added that the COVID-19 Working Group is also preparing a set of recommendations for Fall 2021. These recommendations will be provided by March 15 and will likely include the continuation of protocols and requirements, such as physical distancing and face coverings. As with the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, the primary focus for the University will continue to be on our mission of teaching.

Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategic Operations Ashley Schumaker added that the New River Health District has been a great partner throughout the pandemic in providing guidance and assisting with the overall response and ongoing planning.

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee Chairs deferred committee discussions until the full Board meeting.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Rector Archer requested a motion to move into closed session. Dr. Brewster made the motion that the Executive Committee of the Radford University Board of Visitors convene a closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) Item 1 and 7 under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the discussion of personnel matters; and consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. Mr. Burton seconded the motion. The Executive Committee went into closed session at 10:14 a.m.

**RECONVENED SESSION**

On the motion made by Dr. Brewster and seconded by Mr. Burton, the following resolution of certification was approved by a roll call vote.

**Resolution of Certification**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Radford University Board of Visitors certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Roll Call	Vote
Dr. Thomas Brewster	Yes
Mr. Gregory A. Burton	Yes
Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston	Yes
Mr. Mark Lawrence, Ex officio	Yes
Dr. Debra K. McMahon	Yes
Ms. Lisa Throckmorton	Yes
Mr. Robert A. Archer, Rector	Yes

The resolution of certification was unanimously adopted.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Budget Presentation and Public Comment Session**

Rector Archer reminded Board members of upcoming meetings and the Board’s important role in decision making and transparency. In accordance with Code of Virginia §23.1-307. D. and E., Radford University will be providing a 30-day notice prior to the Board of Visitors considering tuition and mandatory fees rates for the 2021-2022 academic year at the quarterly meeting, currently scheduled for April 22-23, 2021. In preparation for the meeting, the Board of Visitors will host a budget overview and public comment session. Following the presentation, the Board of Visitors will receive public comment on the proposed tuition and fees.

Rector Archer asked Board members to please keep this in mind and more information will be made available at the appropriate time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Executive Committee, Rector Archer adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Karen Castele  
Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President

End of Board of Visitors Materials

