

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE
2:30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
MARTIN HALL, SECOND FLOOR, RADFORD, VA

DRAFT
MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Debra K. McMahan, Vice Chair
Ms. Lisa W. Pompa
Mr. Marquett Smith
Ms. Lisa Throckmorton
Ms. Grace Hurst, Non-Voting Student Advisory Member

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT

Ms. Krisha Chachra, Chair

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Mark Lawrence
Ms. Nancy Angland Rice

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Carolyn R. Lepre, Interim President

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Debra McMahan, Vice Chair, formally called the meeting to order 2:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room in Martin Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. McMahan asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2021 meeting agenda for the Student Success Committee, as published. Ms. Lisa Throckmorton so moved, Mr. Marquett Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. McMahan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting of the Student Success Committee, as published. Ms. Throckmorton so moved, Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Student Government Association (SGA) President Grace Hurst presented SGA's goals for 2021-2022 academic year, including collaborate with other organizations, encourage student

engagement, promote mental health resources and advocate for student needs. SGA held several welcome back events for all students during the first two weeks of the semester. Students could take First Day of Class photos outside Heth Hall to send to their families. SGA has established new committees on parking, mental wellness and SGA Constitution revisions. Through a collaboration with the Center for Career and Talent Development, events will be held to prepare students for the Career Fair. Ms. Hurst also reported on events and initiatives SGA has planned for the fall semester, such as a talent show, costume contest, school supply drive for the local elementary schools, wellness week programming, and a holiday parade.

Vice President for Student Affairs Susan Trageser, Ed.D., Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Angie Mitchell, and Associate Vice President for Student Life Tricia Smith gave a presentation outlining how Student Affairs staff are intentional in their approach to promoting student success and building a sense of belonging focusing on academic belonging, social belonging, campus community belonging and connections to the larger community through off-campus belonging.

Dr. Trageser shared the Models of Practice that frames the Student Affairs work, including the eight tenets upon which it is based. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Smith shared examples throughout the presentation for each tenet. *Student-centered* included extending Student Counseling Services until 8 p.m. to better meet the needs of students. Tele-behavioral health appointments that were utilized during the pandemic will continue to be available to students increasing access over breaks and to fully online students. SAVES received grant funding to employ a Recovery Support Specialist and enhance the Recovery Lounge. As part of the grant, each campus receives a bicycle that allows the Recovery Specialist to travel around campus to meet and talk to students while offering coffee and tea. A club finder option has been added to RUInvolved. This allows students to indicate interests and matches them to a club.

Related to the *Caring* tenet, the Highlander Food Pantry, that is open to all members of the Highlander Community, became a project for sociology classes with the assistance of Dr. Beth Lyman. The students provided marketing strategies and interns to staff the pantry. The Citizen Leader Program is also incorporating the pantry as a service opportunity for students. Related to the second tenet, *Inclusion*, a seven- week Ubuntu (I am because they are) series was started this fall that will cover various social equity and inclusion topics. All employees and students are invited to attend.

Related to the *Collaborative* tenet, the second cohort of the Bridge Program started this semester. New River Community College has designated an advisor for the program that will divide her time between the campuses. The Bridge Program participants are living as themed community in Ingles Hall. The family series that began in 2019 will be restarted this fall. Families will be invited to participate in weekly informational sessions to better understand timelines and processes to assist their student.

Related to the *Learner Focused* and *Excellence* tenets, Student Affairs received funding through the Strategic Investment Proposals for three initiatives. The Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility opened this semester and will provide support, assistance, employment and programming for first-generation students. An Esports Arena will also be opened this fall to be a home for the largest club on campus with over 200 members. The new Assistant Director of ESports will be the coach for this club and also recruit at high schools. A consulting firm has

been hired to review and assess our Fraternity and Sorority Life area and to assist in strategy development as the University works to realign the culture with greater focus on founding values and community pillars.

Related to the *Efficiency* tenet, COVID-19 drove many positive changes, including holding Traditions Week online. Participating students received a gift; there was a 114% increase in participation over the previous year. Telehealth was continued. Family groups that included an upper classman paired with 12 freshmen helped address social distancing issues while still bringing students together for regular, weekly activities.

Related to the final tenet, *Team Oriented*, a Call Center was established last fall to manage the volume of calls related to COVID-19. Staff from all divisions of the University have been trained and assist throughout the day, early evenings and weekends.

Fall residence hall move-in was held over a five-day period with assistance from departments across campus. Welcome Back events were held at the beginning of the semester, including New Student Convocation, Welcome Back Bash, Movies on the Lawn, and Family Group meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. McMahon adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jenni Tunstall
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Secretary to the Committee

End of Board of Visitors Materials

