Academic Excellence and Research Committee

December 2022

RADFORD UNIVERSITY Board of Visitors

Page 1 of 40



Board of Visitors

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE 2:30 P.M.** DECEMBER 1, 2022 MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM THIRD FLOOR, MARTIN HALL, RADFORD, VA

DRAFT AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - September 8, 2022
- ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT
 - 2022-23 Goals Progress

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair

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Dr. Marten denBoer, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Dr. Jessica Stowell, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement

Dr. Marten denBoer, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Laura Jacobsen, Interim Dean of University Libraries

Elizabeth Lee and Kiersten Smith Marcella Gray

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair

Revisions to *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook*, Section 2.3, Teaching Responsibilities

ACTION ITEM: Recommendation to Approve

- SACS Reaffirmation Update
- Academic Affairs Updates
 - Open Educational Resources
- o Student Presentations
- OTHER BUSINESS
- ADJOURNMENT

** All start times for committees are approximate only. Committees meet sequentially in the order appearing. Meetings may begin either before or after the listed approximate start time as committee members are ready to proceed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert Mr. Tyler W. Lester Dr. Kurt Gingrich, Non-voting Faculty Advisory Member

Academic Affairs Report



Board of Visitors

Page 4 of 40 December 1, 2022

• Goal 2: Faculty Workload Optimization

- Use faculty talents to foster student recruitment, retention, and career success
- Faculty Senate developed handbook revisions
- ACTION ITEM:
 - Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook, Section 2.3, Teaching Responsibilities

Page 5 of 40

RADFORD UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE December 1, 2022

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TEACHING AND RESEARCH FACULTY HANDBOOK

WHEREAS, All proposed changes to the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook* must be managed in accord with §5.0 of that handbook, and

WHEREAS, the authority to amend or revise the Faculty Handbook lies with the Board of Visitors. However, proposals for revising the Handbook may be initiated by faculty, administrators, the President, or members of the Board of Visitors. Revisions fall into two categories: (1) those required to ensure that the University is in compliance with state policies and mandates, and (2) those within the purview of the decision-making processes within the University, and

WHEREAS, revisions required to ensure that the University is in compliance with state policies and mandates, and that do not require a decision by University personnel, will be effected through an administrative update, with faculty being informed of the change and the reasons for it, and

WHEREAS, revisions within the purview of the decision-making processes in the University Internal Governance system will be considered by appropriate committees as defined by the Internal Governance system. Proposals for changes will be made in the form of text intended to replace a portion of the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook, noting new language and striking out the old language, and

WHEREAS, it will be the Faculty Senate's responsibility to ensure that the general faculty is provided time and opportunity to review the proposed change so faculty can communicate with their senators prior to any action by the Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate's recommendations on proposed revisions to the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook will be forwarded to and approved by the President. The Provost will forward the Faculty Senate's recommendations to the Academic Excellence and Research Committee who will in turn make recommendations to the member of the full Board of Visitors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors of Radford University hereby approve in accordance with §5.0 of the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook*, **Section 2.3**: **Teaching Responsibilities** of the *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook* as hereby amended. Said sections are to now read as follows:

Motion to Revise the Teaching Responsibilities Language in the Teaching and Research Handbook

Referred by: Curriculum Committee

MOTION:

The Faculty Senate recommends the addition of language (red type) and the deletion of language (stricken through) in section 2.3 Teaching Responsibilities of the T&R Faculty Handbook to read:

2.3 Teaching Responsibilities

For faculty members with responsibilities for advising, university service, and expectations of professional contributions, the normal teaching load is twelve (adjusted) semester hours per semester. For faculty who have no significant responsibilities other than teaching, the normal (adjusted) teaching load is fifteen semester hours per semester.

Assigned faculty teaching load reflects a variety of factors such as disciplinary norms, the number of students enrolled in classes, the number of preparations required, and the level of courses taught. Department chairs assign teaching responsibilities with the approval of the Dean

Assigned faculty teaching load reflects a variety of factors such as disciplinary norms and accreditation, the number of students enrolled in classes, the number of preparations required, the level and type of courses taught, and responsibility for laboratory, clinical, studio, or practicum instruction. Department chairs and school directors assign teaching responsibilities, based on university goals and priorities, department and college needs, consideration of disciplinary accreditation, and the faculty member's interests and capabilities, with the approval of the appropriate supervising dean.

The chair or director determines the faculty member's teaching load distribution for each academic semester in consultation with the faculty member, prior to the determination of the course schedule.

For faculty who have no significant responsibilities other than teaching, the normal (adjusted) teaching load is fifteen semester hours per semester. For faculty members with responsibilities for advising, university service, and expectations of professional contributions, the normal teaching load is twelve (adjusted) semester hours per semester.

Faculty who devote a significant amount of time in high-engagement practices may receive time reassigned from the normal (adjusted) teaching load. High-engagement practices are those that enhance student recruitment, retention, persistence, and degree completion.

Faculty who are heavily committed to service or undertaking especially intensive professional, scholarly and creative contributions could have additional reassignment of time, arranged in consultation with their chair or director and the appropriate supervising dean.

Faculty involved in administration of academic programs may also have a reduced teaching load, in consultation with the appropriate supervising dean.

RATIONALE:

The revised language provides more detailed guidance on faculty teaching loads, including broad criteria for reassigned time. The revision clarifies that reassigned time may be appropriate for faculty with significant administrative or service responsibilities or for faculty engaged in especially intensive scholarly, professional, or creative activities. It also allows for the use of reassigned time to support university initiatives related to recruitment and retention.

• Goal 3: Increase Average Class Size

- Results TBD in Spring 2023 semester
 - Compare to Fall 2022 and Spring 2022

Page 9 of 40



• Goal 4: Increase externally funded activities

- Grant-fostering activities
 - URSCI mini-grants
 - Elevate Research Program
 - Grant writing workshops
 - Quarterly newsletters (September and November)
- Preliminary indicators (July November 2021 vs 2022)
 - 20 new proposals (up 26%)
 - 35 new awards (up 16%)
 - 5 first-time faculty grant writers (4 in 2021)

Page 10 of 40



- Goal 1: SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation
 - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
 - Accreditation cycle: ten-year review
 - Compliance certification, institutional summary
 - Off-site review
 - On-site visit March 27-30
 - Dr. Jessica Stowell Director, Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement
 - SACS liaison

Page 11 of 40

Preliminary at this point

- Faculty Standards
 - 6.2a Faculty Qualifications (92% of institutions)
 - 6.3 Faculty Evaluation
- Educational Policy
 - 10.2 Public Information
 - 10.5 Admissions Policies and Practices

Page 12 of 40





Preliminary at this point

- Finance
 - 13.2 Financial Documents (no audit yet)
- Assessment
 - 8.1 Student Success
 - 8.2 Assessment of Student Learning
 - Academic programs
 - General education
 - Academic and student support services

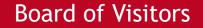
Page 13 of 40



Mandatory on-site review

- Administration 1 standard
- Faculty 3 standards
- Program/curriculum 3 standards
- Educational policies 2 standards
- Student support and complaints 2 standards
- Financial and physical resources 2 standards
- Policies 3 standards

Page 14 of 40



Mandatory on-site review

- Quality Enhancement Plan
 - Topic *identified* through **ongoing comprehensive planning and evaluation**
 - **Broad based** *support* of constituencies
 - Focus on *improving* specific student learning outcomes or student success
 - Commits resources to initiate, implement and complete the QEP
 - Includes a plan to assess achievement

Page 15 of 40



- **Davis College** Ranked #16 Nationally for part-time MBA
 - Ahead of Tech and VCU, only William and Mary ahead of us in VA
- Education VDOE Teacher Apprenticeship Planning Grant
 - All 3 VDOE paid internship applicants awarded
- Interim Associate Provost for RUC Dr. Glen Mayhew
- Dalton Scholars
 - Profs. Rick Van Noy, English, Steven Fesmire, Philosophy
 - Rising Star Assistant Prof. Zachary Collier, Management
- FERP 16 of 17 faculty approved
- Emeritus Associate Professor Robert Hanley, Dept. of Physician Assistant

Page 16 of 40

- Waldron OT, PHHL, SOWK numerous conference presentations
 - PT Kevin Chui CAPTE commissioner
- **ARTIS** 3 biology students published in flagship biomechanics journal
 - Karen Bowers, Biology, lifetime achievement award, Wildlife Society
 - Faculty presented at CUR Scholar Research Workshop
 - Adam Downs Math Dept. From SWVGS; code to create QR codes
- **Nursing** DNP student presented at AWHONN
- CHBS Prof. Donna Boyd American Academy of Forensic Sciences TV
 - Wicked Festival address "wicked" public problems
 - Eg. Sustainability in Appalachia, US southern border
 - 3 colleges, 9 classes, 300 students
 - Model UN Honorable Delegation
- Visual and Performing mini-museum by MFA students in Libraries

Governor's Schools

- Summer Residential Schools new director
 - Humanities
 - Visual and Performing Arts
- Southwest Virginia STEM Day School
 - New: maybe Fall 2023
- Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary
 - Colleges: Artis, CHBS, Davis

Page 18 of 40



- Cooperation with Virginia Tech
 - Leverage adjacency, brand
 - 3+2 with Criminal Justice, Sociology, maybe Engineering
 - Business pathway to MBA
 - Nursing and allied health programs
 - Shared services in Roanoke
 - Communication Science and Disorders Tech students here
- Open Educational Resources
 - Dr. Laura Jacobsen, Interim Dean of Libraries

Page 19 of 40



Affordable Course Materials Initiative

Laura Jacobsen, Ph.D. Interim Dean of the Libraries



ABOUT HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND ON COURSE MATERIALS THIS SEMESTER?



Cost of

Course

Materials

Source: Virginia Course Materials Survey 2021, https://vivalib.org

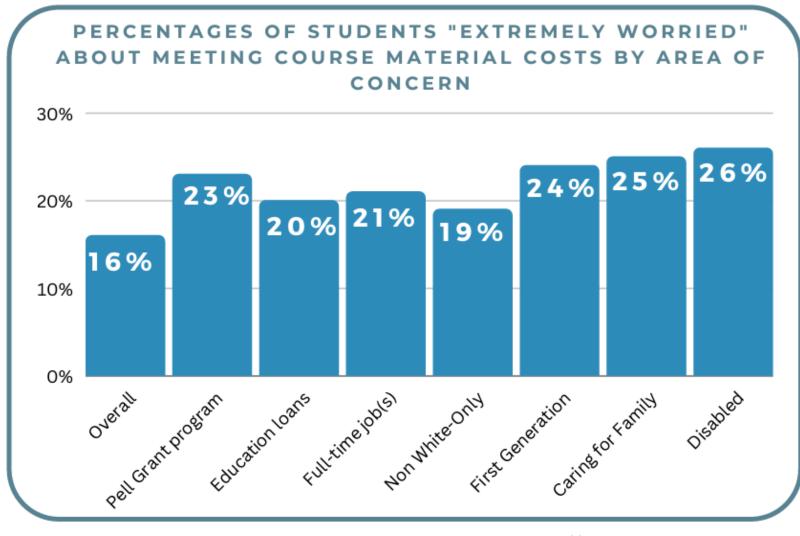
Page 21 of 40

Course Material Costs Cause Students Worry



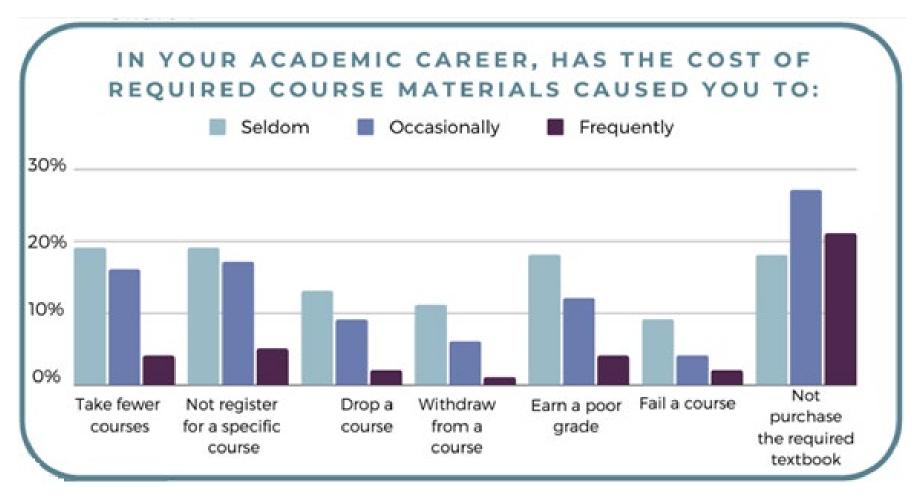
Source: Virginia Course Materials Survey 2021, <u>https://vivalib.org</u>

Worries are Amplified by Areas of Concern



Source: Virginia Course Materials Survey 2021, <u>https://vivalib.org</u>

Academic Progress, Opportunity, and Success are Impacted



Source: Virginia Course Materials Survey 2021, <u>https://vivalib.org</u>

The Problem of High Textbook Costs

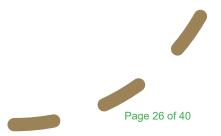


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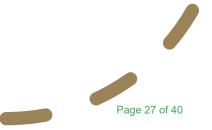


"It has slowed it down [my progress]. You have to take what you can afford, even if it puts earning your degree off by a semester (or two)." "There's just some things I can't do or complete without a textbook and I just don't have the funds right now. It's hard but I try my best to make it work." "I have had to miss out on science labs for not being able to afford materials, as well as forfeit completing several textbook-based assignments in several classes because I simply could not afford the textbooks."

- Beginning in Spring 2023, no-cost and lowcost courses are tagged in Radford's course registration system.
- Revised Textbook Sales Policy is being routed for feedback and approval, providing guidance on the utilization of OER and no- or low-cost textbooks and resources.



- The Libraries and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning have designed and are delivering an OER workshop series for faculty (Nov 14 – Dec 7)
 - Open Course Materials: Part of the solution. \$200 Stipend for attending one session and then reviewing a textbook in the Open Textbook Library by Jan. 13th.
 - $\circ~$ Rapid Course Analysis and Needs Assessment for OER
 - Finding OER: Hands-on with guided searching in the Open Textbook Library and more



- One-on-one consultations with faculty on finding or developing OER
- OER LibGuide created by the Library provides access to the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) shared collections, ebooks, and book repositories, <u>https://libguides.radford.edu/OER/Find</u>
- Encourage application for OER grants through VIVA (due Dec. 7th), \$2,000-\$30,000, for individuals and teams to adopt, adapt, and create free and affordable course content.

- The libraries will request a spare/desk copy of class textbooks from faculty. Students may borrow books for two hours, in the library.
- Radford participates in VIVA's Curriculum Driven Acquisitions (CDA) Program for ebooks.
 - Bookstore provides the library with faculty book requests 3 weeks before the start of the semester.
 - Library collections and VIVA search every title to see if it is:
 - 1) already in our collection and the rights attached, and if not,
 - 2) whether it is purchasable with a license.
 - For eBooks that fit, VIVA then purchases these eBooks and the library adds them to our searchable library collection
 - Library Collections emails every faculty member with eBooks that VIVA was able to purchase, to inform them about the "free" version. These are now a permanent part of our collection.





Appendices

No-Cost and Low-Cost Course Materials



No-Cost Course Resources: All required textbooks or other instructional content resources for a given course are available without cost to the student—i.e., they are zero-cost.



Low-Cost Course Resources: All required textbooks or other instructional content resources for a given course cost students no more than \$40—i.e., they are low-cost.

Open Access and OER

OER are freely and publicly available teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others.

Open access refers to teaching, learning and research materials that are available free online for anyone to use as is, but they may not be revised, remixed, or redistributed. All open access textbooks are also considered OER. 2019 Session of the Virginia General Assembly Code of Virginia § 23.1-1308

Several Provisions

- "The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall implement policies, procedures, and guidelines that encourage efforts to minimize the cost of textbooks for students while maintaining the quality of education and academic freedom."
- "The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall implement guidelines for the adoption and use of low-cost and no-cost open educational resources in courses offered at such institution. Such guidelines may include provisions for low-cost commercially published materials."
- "The registrar or another appropriate employee of each public institution of higher education shall identify conspicuously in the online course catalogue or registration system, as soon as practicable after the necessary information becomes available, each course for which the instructor exclusively uses no-cost course materials or low-cost course materials."

https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter13/ section23.1-1308/



Minutes

RADFORD UNIVERSITY Board of Visitors

Page 35 of 40



Board of Visitors

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING 1:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM MARTN HALL, THIRD FLOOR, RADFORD, VA

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout Mr. Tyler Lester Dr. Kurt Gingrich, Non-voting Faculty Advisory Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Debra K. McMahon, Rector

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President

Dr. Marten denBoer, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Steven Bachrach, Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology

Dr. Joy Bhadury, Dean of the Davis College of Business and Economics

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

Dr. Stephanie Caulder, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts

Dr. Tim Channell, Assistant Provost for Budget and Academic Operations

Dr. Wendy Downey, Interim Dean of the School of Nursing

Dr. Laura Jacobsen, Interim Dean of the Libraries

Dr. Jane Machin, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing

Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick, Associate Provost for Research, Faculty Development and Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Jessica Stowell, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement Demiah Smith, Radford University Student

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m. in the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Memorial Board Room in Martin Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2022 agenda. Mr. Tyler Lester so moved, Ms. Jeanne Armentrout seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting of the Academic Excellence and Research Committee, as published. Ms. Jeanne Armentrout so moved, Mr. Tyler Lester seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Marten denBoer reported on the following:

Academic Affairs proudly welcomed the following Deans

Dr. Steven Bachrach serves as the new Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology. Dr. Bachrach comes to us from Monmouth University, where he served as dean of the School of Science. Dr. Stephanie Caulder is welcomed as the new Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Dr. Caulder comes to us from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she served as chair of the Department of Music. Dr. Laura Jacobsen is serving as Interim Dean of the Libraries. Dr. Jacobsen is a Radford faculty member in mathematics with extensive leadership experience at Radford. Dr. Wendy Downey is serving as Interim Dean in the School of Nursing.

Academic Affairs also welcomed the following Department Chairs

Dr. Steven Fesmire serves as Chair of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Dr. Fesmire joined Radford University in August 2019 and currently is Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Dr. Wayne Gallops serves as Chair of the Music Department. Dr. Gallops joined Radford University in August of 2004 and currently is Professor in the Department of Music.

New Faculty for Fall 2022

Radford University welcomed 38 new faculty, of whom 28 are new to Radford, for the 2022-2023 academic year. These faculty represent a number of disciplines and come as far away as Florida, New York, North Dakota, New Hampshire and Texas, as well as several from Virginia.

Emeritus

Based on recommendations from the Department Personnel Committee, the Department Chair, the College Dean, and the Provost, the President has awarded emeritus status to the following retired faculty members.

Faculty awarded emeritus status are:

Professor Alison Pack	Department of Art
Professor Maung Htay	School of Computing and Information Sciences
Professor Robert Phillips	School of Computing and Information Sciences

Criteria for the awarding of emeritus faculty status are: a minimum of ten years of service to Radford University; evidence of effective teaching; and significant professional contributions

Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Marten denBoer continued by presenting the following:

Faculty Search Process

Faculty are a major resource and a long-term investment for Radford University. In order for searches to begin earlier and for new faculty to start in Fall 2023, decisions have been made beginning in Fall 2022. With requests from the department and dean prioritizing the requests, Provost then analyzes requests across all colleges and makes decision to invest based on growth and demand.

Complete College America Conference

2022 Annual Conference: BREAKTHROUGH will be held in Atlanta, GA on October 24-25, 2022. A faculty development opportunity to attend major conference on supporting student success. New ideas, new practices and break barriers to change. Eight academic leaders will be attending from Radford University.

Student Retention – Highlander Success Center

A presentation from Dr. Nicole Hendrix will be presented in the Student Success Committee meeting. The presentation focuses on retention, progression, and graduation. The HSC consolidates units across the institution on these goals. Professional advising staff are the primary unit for connection and outreach to students.

<u>Mountains, Rivers and Roads - Understanding Appalachia October 21-23, 2022 Voices</u> <u>exploring the science, culture art and history of Appalachia.</u>

The Honors College is hosting a symposium dedicated to finding connections and common ground, sharing interests and experiences relating to Appalachia from across Radford and beyond. The event will find and foster connections, sharing interests and experiences relating to Appalachia from all corners and vantages.

Elevate Research Program

Associate Provost Jeanne Mekolichick presented on the Elevate Research Program to increase student access to and participation in undergraduate research, scholarship and creative inquiry (URSCI) in order to close equity gaps and raise overall retention, progression and graduation rates. Support faculty embedding URSCI and career readiness skills into first- and second-year courses. Diversify classroom leadership. Senior History major Demiah Smith discussed how being a student mentor in this program enhanced her experience at Radford University. She enjoyed helping other students.

Goals for 2022-2023

1. <u>Successful SACS Reaffirmation</u>

Dr. Tim Channell, Assistant Provost for Budgets and Academic Operations, introduced Dr. Jessica Stowell, the new Director of Institutional Effectiveness. Both updated on the progress of our SACSCOC reaffirmation. The reaffirmation compliance focus report was sent on September 8, 2022. This report addressed 80 standards and sub-standards with narratives and supporting evidence and documents.

The timeline for the remainder of the reaffirmation cycle:November 1-4, 2022Offsite ReviewFebruary 2023Submit reply to focus report and final QEP proposalMarch 27-30, 2023Onsite VisitAugust 2023Submit Onsite Response ReportDecember 2023SACSCOC Board of Trustees Review

2. Faculty workload optimization

Go from fixed 4-4 classroom instructional load to flexible assignments that best use faculty talents to support student recruitment, retention, and graduation. Faculty strengths and talents are not all in the classroom. Some are better teachers, other better at engaging students in other ways, such as field trips, involvement in research, creating and supporting internships, or developing new teaching modalities. Plans to pilot in spring 2023; full implementation in fall 2023. Dr. Jane Machin, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, presented an example of a reassigned time project to improve student success, the *Davis First-Year Experience*. Retention of all students is a strategic priority and is especially important for first-time students. New freshmen retention has been a challenge for the University and the Davis College of Business and Economics (DCOBE). When business students interact with their major faculty, retention improves. The Davis College First Year Faculty Committee. The committee will focus on Academic Belonging, intentional first year academic coordination and Community Belonging, intentionally building Davis College Highlander community. The goal is to increase fall-to-fall new freshman student retention in DCOBE from 66% to 71%.

3. Increase Average Class Size

Average size of lecture format classes at Radford University is 19.5. Increasing class size to 24 would increase in course section capacities, have fewer under-enrolled sections, and use less adjunct faculty.

4. Increase in externally funded activities

More faculty, students, and community members to be involved in externally funded activities. In FY22 our Principal Investigators or co-Principal Investigators submitted 54 proposals, of which 41 were funded. About 65 undergraduate and graduate students were paid on grants, and about 10 community members participated. In FY22 new proposals totaled \$33m; \$8m new awards were received. The goal is have these numbers increase.

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Kurt Gingrich, Faculty Senate President discussed the achievements of the Faculty Senate in 2021-2022 and its goals for 2022-2023.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Fowlkes adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda D. Conner Executive Assistant to the Provost

End of Board of Visitors Materials

