

# Radford University Faculty Senate

## Motions

### 2024-2025

#### Table of Contents

Click on a motion below to be redirected to the motion page.

Faculty Senate Membership by College .....	1
Governance Structure of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate .....	3
Status of Motions of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate.....	6
24-25.01: Motion to Revise the Department Structure of the College of Nursing.....	7
24-25.02: Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Search Committees to Select Deans .....	8
24-25.03: Motion to Remove Upper-level Course Requirements from the REAL Curriculum .....	11
24-25.04: Motion concerning Proposed Changes to the Academic Calendar .....	17
24-25.05: Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Evaluation Procedures for Tenured Faculty .....	18
24-25.06: Motion to Create the New Course CLEA 480 Citizen Leader: Special Topics.....	20
24-25.07: Motion to Create the New Course CLEA 498 Citizen Leader: Independent Study .....	21
24-25.08: Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Term Limits for Chairs and Directors .....	22

**Faculty Senate Membership by College** (<https://www.radford.edu/faculty-senate/contact.html>)

**Artis College of Science and Technology**

at-large	Kim Lane	<a href="mailto:ktlane@radford.edu">ktlane@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
at-large	Tara Pelletier	<a href="mailto:tpelletier@radford.edu">tpelletier@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Anthropological Sciences	Jake Fox	<a href="mailto:jfox32@radford.edu">jfox32@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Biology	Matt Close	<a href="mailto:mclose2@radford.edu">mclose2@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Computing & Information Sciences	Ian Barland	<a href="mailto:ibarland@radford.edu">ibarland@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Chemistry	Sarah Kennedy	<a href="mailto:skennedy25@radford.edu">skennedy25@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
	Tim Fuhrer	<a href="mailto:tfuhrer@radford.edu">tfuhrer@radford.edu</a>	Fall 2024
Geospatial & Earth Sciences	Naveen Joseph	<a href="mailto:njoseph2@radford.edu">njoseph2@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Mathematics/Statistics	Eric Choate	<a href="mailto:echoate2@radford.edu">echoate2@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Physics	Rhett Herman	<a href="mailto:rherman@radford.edu">rherman@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026

**Davis College of Business and Economics**

at-large	Mike Chatham	<a href="mailto:mdchatham@radford.edu">mdchatham@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Accounting, Finance & Information Systems	Liang Shao	<a href="mailto:lshao@radford.edu">lshao@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Economics	Eftila Tanellari	<a href="mailto:etanellari@radford.edu">etanellari@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Management	Jae Jeong	<a href="mailto:jjjeong5@radford.edu">jjjeong5@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Marketing	Luke Liska	<a href="mailto:lliska@radford.edu">lliska@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026

**College of Education and Human Development**

at-large	Roofia Galeshi	<a href="mailto:rgaleshi@radford.edu">rgaleshi@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
at-large	Wendy Eckenrod-Green	<a href="mailto:weckenrodgre@radford.edu">weckenrodgre@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Counselor Education	Bethany Lanier	<a href="mailto:blaine@radford.edu">blaine@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Health & Human Performance	Dave Sallee	<a href="mailto:dsallee@radford.edu">dsallee@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Recreation, Parks & Tourism	Susan Van Patten	<a href="mailto:svanpatt@radford.edu">svanpatt@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
School of Teacher Education	Ryan Smith	<a href="mailto:rsmith630@radford.edu">rsmith630@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026

**College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences**

at-large	Kevin Farrell	<a href="mailto:kfarrell2@radford.edu">kfarrell2@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
at-large	John Brummette	<a href="mailto:jbrummett@radford.edu">jbrummett@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Communication	Scott Dunn	<a href="mailto:swdunn@radford.edu">swdunn@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Criminal Justice	Rachel Santos	<a href="mailto:rsantos5@radford.edu">rsantos5@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
History	Kurt Gingrich	<a href="mailto:kgingric@radford.edu">kgingric@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Philosophy & Religious Studies	Geoff Pollick	<a href="mailto:gpollick@radford.edu">gpollick@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Political Science	Daniel Reed	<a href="mailto:dreed33@radford.edu">dreed33@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026

Psychology	Eric Mesmer	<a href="mailto:emesmer@radford.edu">emesmer@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Sociology	Roby Page	<a href="mailto:erpage@radford.edu">erpage@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Writing, Language & Literature	Kim Gainer	<a href="mailto:kgainer@radford.edu">kgainer@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026

## College of Visual and Performing Arts

at-large	Will Sawyer	<a href="mailto:wwsawyer@radford.edu">wwsawyer@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Art	Brent Webb	<a href="mailto:bwebb18@radford.edu">bwebb18@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Dance	Inessa Plekhanova	<a href="mailto:iplekhano@radford.edu">iplekhano@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Interior Design & Fashion	Tammy Robinson	<a href="mailto:trrobinso@radford.edu">trrobinso@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Music	Rachel Rotert	<a href="mailto:rrotert@radford.edu">rrotert@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Theatre & Cinema	Camilla Morrison	<a href="mailto:cmorrison1@radford.edu">cmorrison1@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025

## RU Libraries

at-large	Alyssa Archer	<a href="mailto:aarcher2@radford.edu">aarcher2@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
----------	---------------	--	-----------

## College of Nursing

at-large	Judy Jenks	<a href="mailto:jbjenks@radford.edu">jbjenks@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
at-large	Kereen Mullenbach	<a href="mailto:krmullenb@radford.edu">krmullenb@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
at-large	Tara Chitwood	<a href="mailto:tmchitwood@radford.edu">tmchitwood@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
at-large	Marjorie Young	<a href="mailto:myoung67@radford.edu">myoung67@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025

## Waldron College of Health and Human Services

at-large	Jake Stewart	<a href="mailto:jstewart23@radford.edu">jstewart23@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
at-large	Brian Buccola	<a href="mailto:bbuccola@radford.edu">bbuccola@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Clinical Health Professions	John Cook	<a href="mailto:jcook85@radford.edu">jcook85@radford.edu</a>	Fall 2024
	Elliot Carhart	<a href="mailto:ecarhart@radford.edu">ecarhart@radford.edu</a>	Spring 2025
Communication Science & Disorders	Michelle Lenhart	<a href="mailto:mlehart@radford.edu">mlehart@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Occupational Therapy	Tara Riddle	<a href="mailto:tbrown140@radford.edu">tbrown140@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
	Jason Browning	<a href="mailto:jtrowning@radford.edu">jtrowning@radford.edu</a>	FALL 2024
Physical Therapy	Stephen Glass	<a href="mailto:smglass1@radford.edu">smglass1@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026
Physician Assistant Studies	Judy Smith	<a href="mailto:jsmith182@radford.edu">jsmith182@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Public Health & Healthcare Leadership	Kim Baskette	<a href="mailto:kgbaskette@radford.edu">kgbaskette@radford.edu</a>	2023-2025
Social Work	Sarah Rakes	<a href="mailto:srakes3@radford.edu">srakes3@radford.edu</a>	2024-2026

## Representative Senators

Adjunct/FT Temp at-large CHBS			2024-2025
Adjunct/FT Temp at-large CoN			2024-2025

## Governance Structure of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate

### Faculty Senate Executive Council

President—Matthew Close  
Vice-President—Jake Fox  
Secretary—Geoffrey Pollick  
At-Large—Alyssa Archer  
At-Large—Kevin Farrell  
*Ex officio*—Kurt Gingrich

### Campus Environment

Kim Baskette	WCHHS
Mike Chatham	DCOBE
Jake Fox	ACSAT
Sarah Kennedy	ACSAT
Tim Fuhrer (Fall 2024)	ACSAT
Michelle Lenhart	WCHHS
Inessa Plekhanova	CVPA
Rachel Rotert	CVPA
Rachel Santos, Secretary	CHBS
Ryan Smith, Chair	CEHD

### Curriculum

Alyssa Archer, Secretary	RU Libraries
Eric Choate, Chair	ACSAT
Tara Chitwood	CoN
Kim Lane	ACSAT
Roby Page	CHBS

Geoff Pollick	CHBS
Sarah Rakes	WCHHS
Will Sawyer	CVPA
Eftila Tanellari	DCOBE
Susan Van Patten	CEHD

## Faculty Issues

Elliot Carhart	WCHHS
Wendy Eckenrod-Green	CEHD
Kevin Farrell, Chair	CHBS
Rhett Herman	ACSAT
Judy Jenks	CoN
Jae Jeong	DCOBE
Eric Mesmer	CHBS
Camilla Morrison	CVPA
David Sallee	CEHD
Judy Smith, Secretary	WCHHS

## Governance

Brian Buccola	WCHHS
Scott Dunn, Secretary	CHBS
Kim Gainer	CHBS
Stephen Glass	WCHHS
Naveen Joseph	ACSAT
Bethany Lanier	CEHD
Kereen Mullenbach, Chair	CoN
Daniel Reed	CHBS
Tammy Robinson	CVPA
Liang Shao	DCOBE

## Resource Allocation

Ian Barland	ACSAT
John Brummette	CHBS
Roofia Galeshi	CEHD
Kurt Gingrich, Chair	CHBS
Luke Liska	DCOBE
Tara Pelletier, Secretary	ACSAT
Tara Riddle	WCHHS
Jason Browning (Fall 2024)	WCHHS
Jake Stewart	WCHHS
Brent Webb	CVPA
Marjorie Young	CoN

## Status of Motions of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
2024-2025			
24-25.01	Motion to Revise the Department Structure of the College of Nursing	Governance	Passed, 08/29/2024
24-25.02	Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Search Committees to Select Deans	Governance	Passed, 10/17/2024
24-25.03	Motion to Remove Upper-level Course Requirements from the REAL Curriculum	Curriculum	Failed, 10/31/2024
24-25.04	Motion concerning Proposed Changes to the Academic Calendar	Faculty Issues	Passed, 11/14/2024
24-25.05	Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Evaluation Procedures for Tenured Faculty	Faculty Issues	Failed, 11/14/2024
24-25.06	Motion to Create the New Course CLEA 480 Citizen Leader: Special Topics	Curriculum	
24-25.07	Motion to Create the New Course CLEA 498 Citizen Leader: Independent Study	Curriculum	
24-25.08	Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Term Limits for Chairs and Directors	Senator Fox	

## 24-25.01: Motion to Revise the Department Structure of the College of Nursing

Referred by: Governance Committee

### MOTION:

The Faculty Senate supports the College of Nursing's proposed revision of its organizational structure to two departments

1. Department of Undergraduate Nursing
2. Department of Graduate Nursing

### RATIONALE:

This proposal was approved by a vote of the College of Nursing faculty on August 12, 2024. Although the College of Nursing was formed in January 2024, the college does not align with the structure of other colleges and departments at Radford University. Functionally, the college has three units with "chairs," known as academic unit heads. Thus, the creation of departments within the college more appropriately aligns with the administrative structure of a college and with the *Radford University Teaching & Research Faculty Handbook*.

In order to accommodate the very large number of students and faculty in the BSN degree program (CIP 51.3801), the Undergraduate Nursing department will have two co-chairs – one for pre-licensure BSN and one for post-licensure RN to BSN. The Graduate Nursing department would only have one chair to house the graduate nursing CIP codes (51.3802, 51.3805, 51.3818).

The change to the proposed departmental structure has a net-neutral effect on the budget. Associate Dean, Assistant Dean, and Chair stipends will come from funds already provided to the university for nursing education by the Commonwealth but not yet allocated.

The number of faculty and students in each department will be as follows:

- Department of Undergraduate Nursing
  - Faculty: 40
  - Students: **1,242**
- Department of Graduate Nursing
  - Faculty: 13
  - Students: 130

The college also has a significant number of adjuncts throughout all programs, primarily for the clinical components of courses and online post licensure and graduate courses.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



## 24-25.02: Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Search Committees to Select Deans

Referred by: Governance Committee

MOTION:

The Faculty Senate approves the addition of language (red type and blue type) and the deletion of language (~~stricken through~~) in Section 1.3.3 of the T&R Faculty Handbook.

### 1.3.3 Selection of Deans

#### Composition of Dean Search Committee

When a vacancy occurs in an academic Deanship, the Provost will, in consultation with the President and upon their approval, call for the formation of a Search Committee composed of **at least six (6) faculty from the college seeking a Dean, one (1) faculty member from outside the college, two (2) students majoring in the programs in the college, and a member of the administration, one (1) Dean from outside the college who will chair the committee in a nonvoting capacity, one (1) classified staff member who is past their probationary period, and one (1) partner who is external to the university.**

#### Method of Populating Dean Search Committee

1. **Faculty members from the College:** (a) ~~There shall be at least five (5) faculty members of the Search Committee.~~ Each department or school in the college shall elect by secret ballot one (1) representative to the search committee. (b) ~~Should this result in fewer than five (5)~~ **six (6) internal** faculty members of the Search Committee, ~~then at a college meeting chaired by the provost, the faculty of the college shall elect by secret ballot~~ **the provost shall ask the faculty of the college to nominate and elect** a sufficient number of at-large college faculty representatives to bring the total number of faculty representatives **from the College** to ~~five (5)~~ **six (6)**.
2. **Faculty member from outside the College:** The Faculty Senate Executive Council (FSEC) shall nominate three faculty members who are external to the College that is seeking a Dean. The Provost will make the final appointment from the names submitted by the FSEC.
3. **Student members from programs in the College:** ~~The student members (2) shall be recommended by the Student Government Association and/or the Graduate Student Council as appropriate.~~ The Student Government Association ~~or the Graduate Student Council~~ **and the Office of Graduate Affairs** shall **each** propose a list containing at

- least ~~six~~ **three (3)** names and submit its list to the Provost, who will make the final appointments ~~of one (1) undergraduate and one (1) graduate student from the College.~~
4. **Dean from outside the College:** The provost shall appoint a Dean from outside the College who has a permanent appointment to their Deanship.
  5. **Classified staff:** The Provost will request that the College's classified staff meet and nominate at least three but no more than six classified staff members who are past the probationary period. The Provost will make the final appointment from the names submitted by the College's classified staff.
  6. **External partner:** The ~~Office~~ **Division of Advancement and Alumni Relations** shall name a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) nominees for the external partner, ~~and Advancement shall name a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) nominees for the external partner.~~ The Provost will make the final appointment of one (1) external partner from the names submitted by ~~these two offices~~ **this division.**

~~The administrative member (1) shall be appointed by the Provost. The Search Committee shall elect its own chair.~~

#### RATIONALE:

The purpose of this motion is to modify the composition of the dean search committee while, consistent with the principles of shared governance, preserving the role of faculty in the process of selecting deans who will be both their colleagues and their leaders.

Currently, deans at Radford University interact with and serve multiple constituencies. They supervise faculty and classified staff; serve on college-wide leadership councils; collaborate with faculty and leadership in other colleges; address student issues and interact with student leaders; play a role in recruitment by interacting with admissions and advisory staff and with prospective students and their families; and interact with state and local leaders, leaders of other educational institutions, alumni, donors, and the public at large. Recognition of the multifaceted role of the Radford University dean has led to this motion to modify the dean search committee so that there is an opportunity for representatives from constituencies with which deans interact to offer their perspectives on candidates for the position. At the same time, the motion mandates that the majority of voting seats on the dean search committee will be held by faculty, maintaining the principle that academicians must play a pivotal role in choosing a college's chief academician.

- The motion continues to guarantee majority representation of faculty, with a minimum of six seats reserved for faculty from the college, and with the external faculty member, a minimum of seven faculty seats overall. Faculty from the college will be selected by their colleagues; chairs and directors within the College will nominate appropriate faculty from outside the college.

- The motion recognizes the importance of the dean’s collaboration with the classified staff who are vital to the day-to-day functioning of a college by assuring that their perspective is represented by the allocation of a seat to that constituency. Classified staff within the College will nominate appropriate classified staff representatives.
- The motion allows for the perspective of a faculty member from outside the college with knowledge about the college’s priorities and about ongoing collaborations between colleges. The Faculty Senate Executive Council will nominate appropriate external faculty.
- The motion recognizes the role that deans play in fundraising and representing the college beyond campus borders by allowing for the perspective of an outside representative, such as a member of a college’s alumni advisory board or a member of an organization with which the college has or hopes to have a mutually beneficial relationship. Advancement and the Office of Alumni Relations will nominate appropriate external partners.
- The motion continues to allow for the student perspective by allocating seats to students. A representative student body (SGA) will send nominations to the Provost. The Graduate Student Council has been stricken as it is no longer active, and nominations will instead be submitted by the Office of Graduate Affairs.
- The motion allows for the perspective of peer leadership by allocating a seat to a dean from another college who, while nonvoting, will chair the search committee and provide advice and guidance. The *T & R Faculty Handbook* currently calls for “a member of the administration,” language that will be replaced with language referencing the external dean. The Provost will select the external dean from among deans with permanent appointments to their deanships.

The allocation of seats will allow for filling one existing seat (the “member of the administration”) with one nonvoting member (the external dean chairing the committee) and the addition of three voting members (one member external to the university, one faculty member from an outside college, and one member of the classified staff). At the same time, college faculty voting membership will never fall below six, and depending on the number of departments and schools in a college, may be greater than six, with total voting faculty membership never falling below seven. The motion therefore accommodates the perspectives of constituencies that do have a stake in the selection of a college’s dean while preserving the traditional faculty prerogative that it chooses its leadership.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## 24-25.03: Motion to Remove Upper-level Course Requirements from the REAL Curriculum

Referred by Curriculum Committee

### MOTION:

Faculty Senate recommends deletion of language (~~stricken through~~) in the section REAL Curriculum of the 2024-2025 Undergraduate Catalog and relevant prior catalogs, beginning immediately. These changes retroactively eliminate the 300-level or higher course requirement from the REAL Curriculum. This applies to the Writing Intensive requirement, REAL Studies minors, and any major/minor that fulfills a REAL Area requirement.

The REAL Curriculum requirements address several competency categories:

- Foundational Writing (3 hours)
- Foundational Math (3 hours)
- Writing Intensive (6 hours ~~–at least 3 hours at the 300-level or higher~~)
- Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning (major or minor hours will vary)
- Humanistic or Artistic Expression (major or minor hours will vary)
- Cultural or Behavioral Analysis (major or minor hours will vary)
- Applied Learning (major or minor hours will vary)

### **REAL Studies Minor in Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning (R)**

A minimum of 15 credits in courses designated “R” within the REAL Curriculum, ~~with at least 3 credits at the 300-400 level.~~

### **REAL Studies Minor in Humanistic or Artistic Expression (E)**

A minimum of 15 credits in courses designated “E” within the REAL Curriculum, ~~with at least 3 credits at the 300-400 level.~~

### **REAL Studies Minor in Cultural or Behavioral Analysis (A)**

A minimum of 15 credits in courses designated “A” within the REAL Curriculum, ~~with at least 3 credits at the 300-400 level.~~

### **REAL Studies Minor in Applied Learning (L)**

A minimum of 15 credits in courses designated “L” within the REAL Curriculum, ~~with at least 3 credits at the 300-400 level.~~

Any major or minor that fulfills a REAL area must include at least 9 unique credit hours, ~~with at least 3 credit hours at the 300 level or above~~ for the area covered.

## RATIONALE:

This motion is supported by the following arguments and data.

### **1. Radford University Should Adhere to the Principles of General Education**

SACS requires that [general education](#) “ensures *breadth* of knowledge” [emphasis added] with “courses that do not narrowly focus on skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.” There must also be at least one course in humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. The decision to require 300 level or higher courses in the REAL curriculum was made by Radford University to incorporate *breadth* and *depth*, not to fulfill an accreditation or SCHEV standard.

While there is some expectation that upper division courses cover topics in more depth, the course numbering system is arbitrary. There are numerous examples of lower division courses within the [Virginia Community College System](#) (VCCS) that meet Radford University’s upper division REAL requirement (e.g., CRJU 341, BIOL 310, CHEM 301, THEA 350, ITEC 345, STAT 301, MUSC 311, PSYC 439, and SOCY 341).

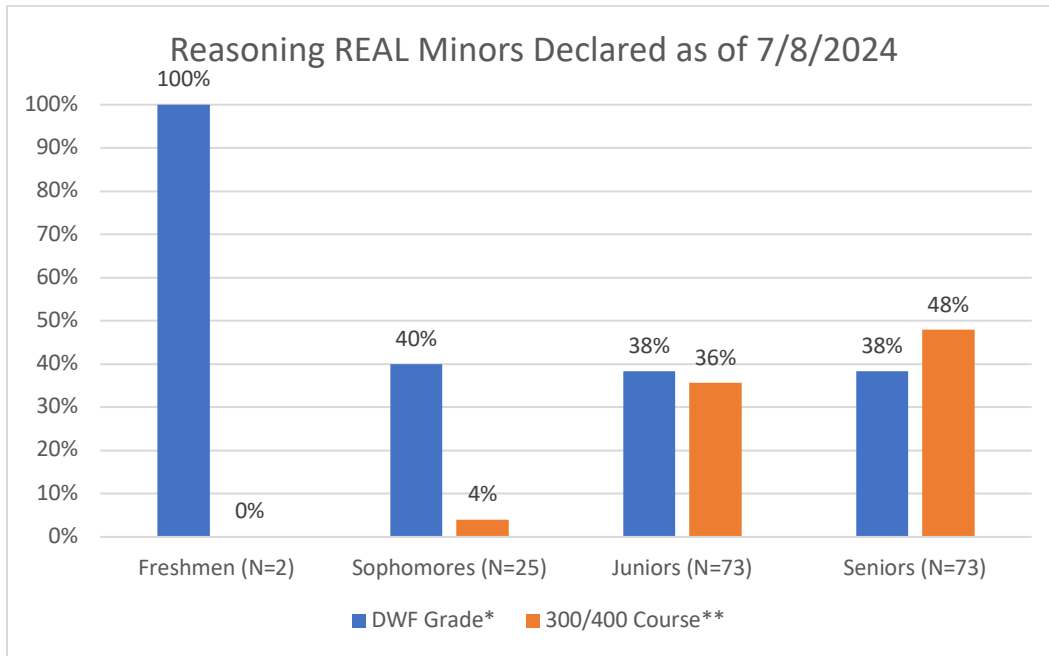
In Spring 2024, the Biology Department put forth curriculum proposals to change Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 310/311) from 300 to 200 level courses “to more accurately reflect the stage at which students are ready for [these courses] and match when most students already take [them].” They withdrew their proposals after multiple Department Chairs and Directors expressed concern over losing R designation because these courses were how their majors and minors met the 300 level or higher REAL requirement. As a result, Radford University continues to teach courses at the 300 level that are 100 level in VCCS.

### **2. Radford University Should Promote Student Success and Timely Graduation**

There is evidence that the 300 level or higher requirement is impeding students’ ability to complete REAL requirements, especially within certain REAL Studies minors. The Reasoning REAL Studies minor was the third most popular minor in [Fall 2023](#) with 142 students. An analysis of degree audits of 173 students enrolled in Fall 2024 showed that completion rates are low. Approximately 48% of seniors have successfully completed a 300/400 level course for the minor. That drops to 36% for juniors and 4% for sophomores. Fourteen students have not taken or successfully completed a single course in the minor (two freshmen, nine sophomores, and three juniors).

As students attempt to complete the 300 level or higher REAL requirement, they could choose from over 50 classes approved for R in 2023-2024. However, only six of those courses are offered on the main Radford campus without a prerequisite. Only three of those six courses were offered in Fall 2024: COMS 326 (full at 12), COSD 316 (14 of 35 seats available), and PHSC 350 (full at 24). This places an unfair burden on students.

Furthermore, many students are struggling in the minor. Nearly 40% had a DWF grade in a course, most commonly STAT 130/200, ANSC 101, GEOL 120, and BIOL 310. On average, the minor GPA was 0.74 points below cumulative GPA. For sophomores, the average cumulative GPA was 2.72 while the minor GPA was 1.27, a difference of -1.44. This is a concern for recruitment and retention.

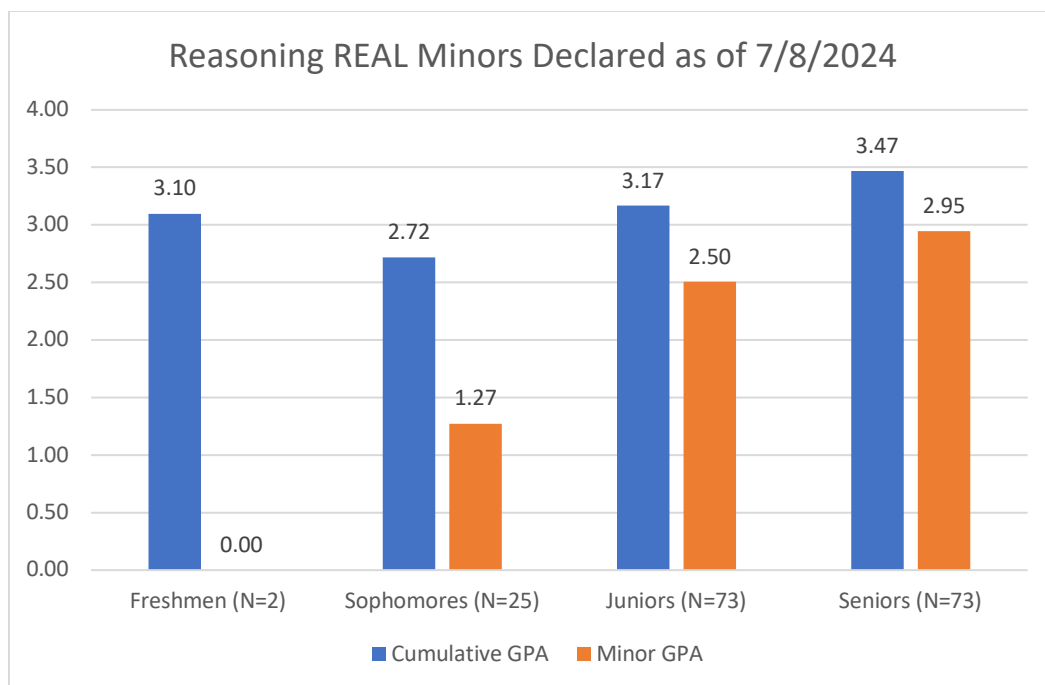


\* At least one DWF grade within the Reasoning REAL Minor

\*\* 300/400 Level R course completed with a passing grade

Prior to the REAL Curriculum many students struggled with general education requirements in mathematical and natural sciences so seeing high DWF rates is unsurprising. What is different under the REAL Curriculum is the expectation of success in upper division classes. Having troubles at lower levels precludes students from being able to take upper divisions courses as many are prerequisites. This is now an impediment to graduation.

According to the Undergraduate Catalog: “To graduate with a minor, a student must have a 2.0 or higher GPA in all courses required for the minor.” The general understanding, although not university policy, is this applies to minor GPA and not individual courses. Additionally, a student who completed all necessary courses with a minor GPA below 2.0 would satisfy REAL requirements, but the minor would not be awarded. This situation is problematic and applies to a quarter of students currently pursuing the Reasoning REAL Studies minor.



### 3. Radford University Should Simplify Course Scheduling

Of 132 minors in Fall 2023, over half had less than 10 declared students. This makes course planning difficult for departments, advisors, and students. For example, [Social Justice \(E A\)](#) is the 12<sup>th</sup> most popular minor with 58 students. The 300 level or higher course requirement to satisfy A is met through one of these ten courses. None were offered in Fall 2024.

- ENGL 453 - The Female Literary Tradition
- HIST 364 - American Slavery (US) (WI)
- HIST 375 - American Immigration (US)
- HIST 381 - Recent America (US) (WI)
- POSC 340 - Law and Social Change
- SOCY 331 - Race and Ethnicity
- SOCY 340 - Appalachian Health Culture
- SOCY 341 - Sociology of Health and Medicine
- SOCY 370 - Environmental Sociology
- SOWK 321 - Social Welfare Policy

The 300 level or higher course requirement to satisfy E is met through one of these ten courses. Two were offered in Fall 2024 (PHIL 385 and RELN 313) with 40 seats combined. All seats were filled.

- ANSC 305 - Principles of Ethnography (GE)
- COMS 433 - Communication and Social Change

- HIST 304 - Environmental History (EU, GL) (WI)
- HIST 307 - Women in World History (EU, GL)
- PHIL 342 - Philosophy, Science, and Values (WI)
- PHIL 385 - Social and Political Philosophy (GE) – 20 seats, full
- POSC 354 - Ethics in International Affairs
- RELN 313 - Religion and Culture (GE) – 20 seats, full
- RELN 314 - Social Problems and the Bible
- RELN 375 - Religious Freedom, Law, and American Identities

Furthermore, the degree audit does not specify that one course must be at the 300/400 level for the Humanistic or Artistic Expression Electives creating further confusion that could delay graduation. This is a problem with several other REAL minors in the degree audit.

A similar issue is happening with [Leadership \(E L\)](#), the 11<sup>th</sup> most popular minor in [Fall 2023](#) with 60 students. The 300 level or higher course requirement to satisfy L is met through one of these eight courses. None were offered in Fall 2024.

- POSC 410 - Demystifying Leadership
- POSC 336 - Public Organization Theory and Leadership
- POSC 337 - Contemporary Problems in Public Administration
- POSC 350 - US Foreign Policy (IR)
- POSC 351 - Model United Nations (IR)
- POSC 352 - International Development (CG/IR)
- POSC 355 - Global Terrorism (CG/IR)
- POSC 485 - Internships in Political Science and Public Administration

The 300 level or higher course requirement to satisfy E is met through one of these three courses. None were offered in Fall 2024.

- COMS 414 - Critical Analysis of Public Discourse
- COMS 433 - Communication and Social Change
- POSC 354 - Ethics in International Affairs

An analysis of academic petitions in the new Quali system shows 16 petitions for course substitutions in the Leadership minor. That is an academic petition for every one in four students in the minor. Furthermore, 13 of the 16 petitions violated a REAL criterion. This included substituting classes with no REAL designation or a different designation and lower division for upper division classes. Only one of these petitions went through the Director of Undergraduate Curriculum as it is not required.

There were 54 petitions relating to academic minors in the Quali system. Of the 49 requesting a course substitution, 18% used a 100/200 level course for a 300/400 level requirement. The



justification for many of these petitions was course unavailability that prevented students from graduating or progressing in their major.

### **Conclusion**

Retroactively eliminating the 300 level or higher requirement for REAL majors and minors will have an immediate impact on the REAL Studies minors and allow departments greater curricular flexibility. This elimination will also “fix” degree audits that do not specify this requirement. Requiring upper division courses outside of a student's major is needlessly hurting our students and should be eliminated.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## **24-25.04: Motion concerning Proposed Changes to the Academic Calendar**

Referred by: Faculty Issues Committee

### **MOTION:**

The Faculty Senate, on behalf of the Teaching and Research Faculty whom it represents, recommends the University delay implementation of the proposed academic calendar models, pending further study and assessment.

### **RATIONALE:**

On Thursday, October 3, University Provost Bethany Usher and University Registrar Katie Piper officially presented three prospective academic calendars for 2025-2026, each of which divides the academic year into three fifteen-week semesters (Fall, Spring, and Summer). On October 9 and October 10, Open Forums were held in Roanoke and Radford, respectively, during which members of the campus community raised questions and shared perspectives about the proposed calendar options.

These calendars, as currently written, represent significant changes to the academic and working culture of Radford University, and may thus have significant implications for faculty, staff, and students.

Our primary concern is that these potential implications necessitate further consideration. While we appreciate the opportunity to share our feedback, both at the scheduled forums and via the Qualtrics survey, we fear that the timeline for implementation is insufficient to hear from all stakeholders and to gather all pertinent information.

We acknowledge the complexities inherent in creating an academic calendar that suits all cohorts, and we appreciate that our purview on this matter is only to “revise and recommend,” rather than to create academic policy. It is in that capacity, and in the spirit of shared governance, that we respectfully urge the University to suspend any plans to implement the proposed calendar until such a time as it has been more thoroughly vetted.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## 24-25.05: Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Evaluation Procedures for Tenured Faculty

Referred by: Faculty Issues Committee

### MOTION:

The Faculty Senate approves the addition of language (red type) in Section 1.4.1.4.1 Subsection 3 and Section 1.4.1.6 of the T & R Faculty Handbook:

#### Section 1.4.1.4.1, Subsection 3:

A tenured faculty member whose overall evaluation rating falls below 3.0, or whose teaching rating falls below 3.0, or whose service rating or professional contributions rating falls below 2.0, is subject to post-tenure review which, after due process, may result in sanctions up to and including dismissal.”

#### 1.4.1.6 Post Tenure Review Policy

If the result of the annual evaluation process for a tenured faculty member is an overall rating of less than 3.0—a on the 5.0 scale (i.e.; below “meets expectations”), or the rating in the evaluation category of “teaching” is below 3.0 on the 5.0 scale, or the rating in the categories of service or professional contributions is below 2.0 on the 5.0 scale, an in-depth evaluation will proceed immediately as described below.

1. By the last day of final examinations of the semester during which the overall evaluation rating of a tenured faculty member falls below 3.0, or in which the teaching rating falls below 3.0, or in which the service or professional contributions rating falls below a 2.0, an in-depth evaluation will be initiated by an ad hoc committee consisting of three tenured faculty members mutually agreed upon by the chair and the tenured faculty member being evaluated. The members of the ad hoc committee need not be from the department of the tenured faculty member being evaluated, but must be from the individual’s college. If the tenured faculty member and the chair cannot agree on the committee’s membership, the committee shall consist of one faculty member selected by the chair, one faculty member selected by the individual being evaluated, and one faculty member selected by the college dean.
2. Within 30 days of the last day of final examinations of the semester in which the committee is formed, the ad hoc committee will develop, in consultation with the tenured faculty member and department chair, a strategic plan designed to remedy performance deficiencies. The plan will:
  - a. Identify specific weaknesses;

- b. Define specific actions to help the tenured faculty member overcome those weaknesses;
- c. Set an appropriate time line for improvement to be achieved as soon as possible, but in no case more than two years following the end of the evaluation period in which the original overall rating of less than 3.0, ~~or~~ the original teaching evaluation of less than 3.0, or the original service or professional contributions rating of less than 2.0 was received;
- d. Indicate measures to assess improved performance;
- e. Identify institutional resources that should be used to assist the tenured faculty member in achieving the specified improvement.

### **RATIONALE:**

Teaching and Research faculty members have, as expectations of their employment, three areas of expectation:

Teaching (40% - 75% of their evaluation), Professional Contributions (15% - 40%), and University Service (5% - 30%). The numerical evaluations of these areas are defined in the Handbook as Outstanding (4.5 - 5.0), Above Expectations (3.5 - 4.49), Meets Expectations (3.0 - 3.49), Below Expectations (2.0 - 2.99), and Unacceptable (Below 2.0). Since Teaching is the category of greatest weight, and is considered the primary function of a faculty member, it makes sense to require this area to be, at a minimum, in the “Meets Expectations” range. However, faculty members who are evaluated as “Unacceptable” in either of the other two categories of their employment need to have a mechanism by which this evaluation is raised to at least a 2.0. This mechanism is the post-tenure review process.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## **24-25.06: Motion to Create the New Course CLEA 480 Citizen Leader: Special Topics**

Referred by: Curriculum Committee

### **MOTION:**

Faculty Senate recommends creation of the new course CLEA 480 Citizen Leader: Special Topics in the Curriculog proposal <https://radford.curriculog.com/proposal:2424/form>

### **RATIONALE:**

This course will add more flexibility for students to complete the 6 credit hours required to graduate with distinction from the Citizen Leader Program. The course is particularly useful for transfer students and students whose majors lack a Citizen Leader designated course. The student has the option to choose this course as an elective.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## **24-25.07: Motion to Create the New Course CLEA 498 Citizen Leader: Independent Study**

Referred by: Curriculum Committee

### **MOTION:**

Faculty Senate recommends creation of the new course CLEA 498 Citizen Leader: Independent Study in the Curriculog proposal <https://radford.curriculog.com/proposal:2422/form>

### **RATIONALE:**

This course will add more flexibility for students to complete the 6 credit hours required to graduate with distinction from the Citizen Leader Program. The course is particularly useful for transfer students and students whose majors lack a Citizen Leader designated course. The student has the option to choose this course as an elective.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## **24-25.08: Motion to Revise T&R Faculty Handbook on Term Limits for Chairs and Directors**

Referred by: Senator Jake Fox

### **MOTION:**

The Faculty Senate approves the addition of language (**red type**) in Section 1.3.2.1 of the Teaching and Research Handbook

#### **1.3.2.1 Term of Service as Department Chair or School Director**

Department Chairs and School Directors will be appointed for renewable four-year terms. During the spring of the third year, an in-depth formal evaluation shall be conducted by the Dean in consultation with the faculty of the department or school. (See section 1.4.2, evaluation of Chairs and Directors.) Terms of Department Chairs and School Directors may be renewed, with additional in-depth evaluations to take place in the third year of each term. **No limit is placed on the number of terms that a Department Chair or School Director can serve consecutively.**

### **RATIONALE:**

Although it is implied that there are no term limits for a chair or director, this motion clarifies that there are no term limits on the number of terms that a chair can serve consecutively. A term limit for chairs or directors would also hinder the hiring of chairs outside of the university.

[RETURN TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)