

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
Heth 43/RUC 3rd Floor Board Room

Present: Staci Allen, Tom Bennett, Sandra Bond, Ashlee Claud, Charley Cosmato, Emily Fitzgerald, Mary Francis, David Halpin, Stephanie Hovsepian, Debra Johnson, Kay Johnson, Mark Lambert, Eric Lovik, Jess Rothe, Deana Sentman, Scott Shull, Tom Snediker, Malinda Tasler, Meghan Viet, Juan Urista

Not Present: Vanessa Conner, Matt Harman, Chad Hyatt

Guests: Tonia Andrews, Damien Allen, Teresa Anders, Alison Armstrong, Samantha Blevins, Trisha Calhoun, Princess Clark-Gaspard, Brandon Cohen, Sarah Cox, Phil Crigger, President Bret Danilowicz, Lisa Dinkle, Mary Fowler-Hughes, Susan Hudson, Jamie Linkous, Jason Lucas, Margaret McManus, Melissa Neal, Connie Phillips, D.J. Preston, Jamie Price, Jeanie Quesenberry, Sean Ramsey, Patrick Reed, Jonathan Renz, Christopher Stafford, Margie Vest, Bobbie Webster

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by President Ashlee Claud.

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from February 12, 2024 were approved.

3. Q&A with President Bret Danilowiz:

Updates: The provost has hired her team. People are feeling good.

We can't control FAFSA – everyone is in the same boat. The application deadline shifted to June 1 from May 1. Enrollment is very important. Last year at this time, we had around 340 deposits. As of Monday this year, we have 504 deposits. Transfer students are up to 111 this year. We are up about 250 students from last year.

The Together Campaign has brought in 35 million more than the last two campaigns combined, which speaks well to our alumni, faculty, and staff. The assumption is that we will be hitting our goal successfully.

T-shirts are available with the new branding. It is better for us to be on brand. The website was frozen March 11 and will Go Live on June 11.

Up to 10 dogs are in Tartan Tails, about half faculty and half AP faculty. Applications are due April 3. It is a lot of work with homework most evenings for you and your dog.

This weekend we are hosting the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee on campus. It is free at the Bonnie. We are trying to promote a culture of our students and employees attending things.

The current budget passed by the legislature has a 3 percent raise. University tuition may have a zero increase or go as high as 1.5%.

The Highlander Restaurant reopened Tuesday, with lower prices and much more accessible menus, including a kid's menu.

I'd like to see a Happy Hour for Radford employees. A thing absent here is a place where employees do things together.

Q&A –

Q – Regarding the wellbeing of students and staff, what do you do to take care of yourself?

A – My role as a president restricts things, but my wellbeing includes family, kayak, canoe, and a regular break away from email and music. I collect found metal (shock absorbers, bumpers, etc.) and turn it into art. You may have seen the fish emerging out of the ground that weighs around 300 lbs. I find this job nowhere near as stressful as you would think. Other presidents are stressed out. I'm not putting together a portfolio for the next job.

Q – With the changes in culture, do you have a vision of whether we want to be?

A – The BOV is touring the spot where the new building will be in Roanoke, which is not next to the Higher Ed Center or Roanoke Memorial. We are working with Carilion to pick a spot to buy or lease. Ideally, we will have a new building in 6 years. We are also looking at programs, such as the Master of Occupational Therapy degree that is currently on both campuses. We are working with the Deans, campuses, and consultants to see what should go where. Maybe we will have a lot of our health sciences in Roanoke because it is easier for clinical placements. We can't leave everything as it is and plan a new building. By May, we will have an idea of what we want to do. No answer is perfect.

Q – Concerns about the pay band structure, especially for junior faculty who may be at the top of their pay band. (Ashlee spoke up that the pay band is a question she is raising at the upcoming Coffee with the President.)

A – I don't know enough about this. (Minimal further discussion ensued, but ultimately the question will come up at the coffee.)

Q – Do people bring you stuff? (Found metal)

A – Yes. Someone picked up a hot shock absorber thrown from a truck, which is not advised. Some people bring me things that are just rust, and I can't use them. I also won't take lead or galvanized metal, both of which will kill the president. I do forging and welding with my son. My son does more forging than welding and vice versa.

Q – How does your son like Radford?

A – He loves it here. The professors have been very supportive, and he has been doing an internship with a local company.

Q – When will the bookstore make the transition to the new logo?

A – Does anyone know? I'm hopeful the bookstore will carry more for alumni – dog collars, baby bibs, etc. (Rumors – it looks like they're getting rid of old stuff.)

We took a bus tour of Radford looking for signs of Radford. We saw old and damaged logos. We are working with the city to refresh Radford signs in the city from Radford (cities have a limited

budget). Also, we need to reach out to Montgomery and Floyd Counties. Roanoke is more complicated. The College of Nursing is there now, but Roanoke is a different market and has Roanoke College. We've got some billboards & bus wraps there. (Patrick brought up that branding is going through the trademark process, but new logoed merchandise should be available in the fall.)

Q – How about a city mural as a tribute to Radford and its history?

A – There is one of cicadas (and also a big train mural on the bike shop near the bridge). I was down in High Point last week for the basketball championships. High Point is a different university with a new expensive basketball arena, but about every other business had High Point murals, signs, merchandise, and street signs changed to reflect university colors, which is something Marshall does, too. Most students showed their pride by wearing purpose.

4. Forthcoming updates:

- Recognition Subcommittee – The subcommittee has a draft that will be circulated prior to the April meeting.
- Elections Subcommittee – The subcommittee will be meeting to start this year's AP Senate nominations and elections process.

5. Upcoming Events:

- Highlander Days and Open House:
 - i. RUC – April 6
 - ii. Main Campus – March 29 and April 13
- Career and Talent Development Etiquette Dinner: March 18, 6-7:30pm
- Highlander Research Blitz: April 3, 5-7pm
- Saturday – International Culture Night – Kyle Hall.
- Senior Block Party – April 4. Every student, faculty and staff can attend.
- April 23 – Recycle shredathon.
- Highlander Hotel – Sandra was there, and said it was crowded. There is a M-F discount.

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

- April 10, Guest Speaker, Vice President Dannette Gomez Beane
- May 8
- June 12