

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**2:30 P.M.**  
**SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**  
**MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM**  
**MARTIN HALL, THIRD FLOOR, RADFORD, VA**

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair  
Ms. Charlene A. Curtis  
Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes  
Mr. David Smith  
Dr. Katie Hilden, Non-voting Faculty Advisory Member

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Robert Archer, Rector  
Dr. Susan Whealler Johnston  
Dr. Jay Brown, Vice Rector

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Carolyn R. Lepre, Interim President  
Ms. Karen Castele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President  
Dr. Angela Joyner, Interim Chief of Staff, Office of the President  
Dr. J. Orion Rogers, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Deb Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Education Section Chief

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Thomas Brewster, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Memorial Board Room in Martin Hall.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Brewster asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2021 meeting agenda for the Academic Excellence and Research Committee, as published. Ms. Charlene A. Curtis so moved, Mr. David Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Brewster asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting of the Academic Excellence and Research Committee, as published. Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes so moved, Mr. David Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs J. Orion Rogers began his report by sharing that Radford University was selected as one of 66 institutions across the nation to participate in a new Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Institute on Open Educational Resources (OER), that began as a virtual kickoff on July 26-27, 2021 and will conclude with a capstone closing event on July 25-27, 2022. Open educational resources (OER) are educational materials that are free for faculty and students to use, revise and share, and they range from single lessons to textbooks.

Interim Provost Rogers stated that Fall 2021 will commence the process for Radford University to seek reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) through the decennial comprehensive review. The Compliance Certification Report is due to SASCOC by September 2022, and the Off-site Review is conducted in November 2022. In early spring of 2023, the Focused Report is due, and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is due in spring 2023. The onsite review will be conducted from March 27-30, 2023, the response to the Visiting Committee Report is due five months following the onsite review, and review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees occurs in December of 2023. As part of the reaffirmation plan the Quality Enhancement Plan has been selected. The topic selected by the QEP Topic Identification Committee is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Interim Provost Rogers shared information about new chairs and directors, including Dr. Chapman Rackaway, who serves as the new Chair of the Department of Political Science. Dr. Rackaway comes to Radford from the University of West Georgia, where he served as the chair and professor in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Jennifer Walton is welcomed as the new Director of the School of Communication. Dr. Walton comes to Radford from Ohio Northern University, where she served as the chair in Communication and Media Studies and Professor in Communication Studies. Dr. Kevin Chui will be welcomed in November as the new Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at Radford University Carilion. Dr. Chui comes to Radford from Pacific University, where he served as the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs in the College of Health Professions.

Several interim placements were shared by Interim Provost Rogers including, Dr. Art Carter is the Interim Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology, Dr. Jake Fox is the Interim Associate Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology, Dr. Jerry Kopf is the Interim Chair of the Department of Management, Dr. Wil Stanton is the Interim Chair of the Department of Marketing, Dr. Jeff Pittges is the Interim Director of the School of Computing and Information Sciences and Dr. Shala Cunningham is the Interim Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy until Dr. Chui's arrival in November.

Interim Provost Rogers stated that Radford University welcomed 42 new faculty for the Fall 2021 semester, of which 22 are new to Radford. These faculty represent disciplines from all six colleges and the School of Nursing

Interim Provost Rogers stated that 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 faculty members effective upon their retirement, including Professor Glen Martin from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies; Professor Kay Jordan from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies; Professor Iain Clelland from the Department of Management; and Professor Grigory Ioffe from the Department of Geospatial Sciences.

Interim Provost Rogers presented an overview of the summer 2021 outreach programs, which develop the sense of campus community belonging in prospective students and were offered in the Artis College of Science and Technology, the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the Waldron College of Health and Human Services, and include:

Summer Bridge Women in STEM and Summer Bridge Cyber Camp - Women in STEM is a week-long residential experience for rising sophomore, junior, and senior high school girls interested in science, technology, and mathematics. CYBER CAMP is an interactive experience for students with a Capture the Flag Competition, MicroBit programming and more.

Governor's School - The Governor's School for Colleges of Visual and Performing Arts and Humanities and Behavioral Sciences works to enhance the individual college experience as students grow and learn. The College of Visual and Performing Arts hosted 150 students and the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences hosted 100 students.

International Summer Dance Intensive (ISDI) is a classically based program ideal for serious and dedicated ballet students age 12 and older who have had a minimum of two years of ballet training and at least one year of pointe training for girls, and is hosted by the Department of Dance. Since 2007, there have been 290 in attendance, 96 were Japanese students and 54 students became Radford University dance majors.

RUC Summer Camps by the Master of Occupational Therapy provides opportunities for children ages 3-5 and 6-14 and offers the chance for campers to build their cognitive, physical/motor, sensory and social skills while their graduate student hosts gain real-world clinical experience.

Interim Provost Rogers shared that the Honors College develops social belonging, academic belonging and campus-community belonging to our currently enrolled students. Dr. Niels Christensen serves as Director of the Honors College, which total and first-year honors enrollment are the highest since 2015-16. Students enrolled through the Honors College have a 92% retention rate.

Interim Provost Rogers shared information on REALising Inclusive Science Excellence in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics at Radford University, which is funded by a five-year, \$1M grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. REALISE aims to change faculty and student mindset through developing and implementing engaging and inclusive pedagogies.

In closing, Interim Provost Rogers shared the goals of the Quality Enhancement Plan, which are: increase students' sense of belonging in classrooms; increase students' sense of belonging in residence halls; increase students' self-efficacy and academic confidence; and increase student retention, progression, and graduation rates.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Brewster adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Stewart Taylor  
Executive Assistant to the Provost

End of Board of Visitors Materials

