

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

**BOARD OF VISITORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and  
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
JOINT MEETING  
11 A.M.  
APRIL 14, 2023  
MARY ANN JENNINGS HOVIS MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM  
MARTIN HALL, RADFORD, VA**

Minutes

**BOARD OF VISITORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Debra K. McMahon, Rector  
Mr. Robert A. Archer  
Mr. Mark S. Lawrence  
Ms. Lisa Pompa

**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Kurt Gingrich, Faculty Senate President  
Dr. David Beach  
Dr. Matthew Close  
Dr. Katie Hilden  
Dr. Katie Katz  
Dr. Sheila Krajnik

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President  
Ms. Karen Castele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President

Rector Debra K. McMahon called the meeting to order and expressed her appreciation for everyone taking the time to participate. She stated that the joint meetings have been helpful for getting to know one another and learning each other's perspectives.

Faculty Senate President Kurt Gingrich concurred with the positive outcomes of the meetings and shared the Senate's condolences upon learning of the passing of Board member Rachel Fowlkes.

Rector McMahon continued by stating that Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression are two topics that are continuing to gain importance and are being discussed on campus, as well as around the country.

Dr. Gingrich shared a draft Faculty Senate Resolution on Academic Freedom that will be voted on in an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting and then presented to the Board, most likely in June. He added that Faculty Senate believe that is important to reaffirm their beliefs and wanted the Board members to see the resolution in draft format.

Ms. Lisa Pompa also shared information on the topics that Board members received at the SCHEV New Member Orientation in October.

All members shared their perspectives on the importance of the issues surrounding academic freedom, freedom of expression and civil discourse and the need to be proactive rather than reactive as the University is making statements. The members discussed ways the University can continue to work together to make sure every student and faculty or staff member can feel that they belong at Radford.

Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook Section 1.15 was also discussed. As written, the process for Reduction in Force Under Fiscal Exigency takes a long period of time. The reality is that the University could be notified that budgets need to be cut and given a short period of time to create a plan. All members discussed the importance of the topic to the faculty members as well as the reality of what may be required from the Governor. It was determined that a group, to be determined by Faculty Senate Executive Council, would begin discussions with a goal of creating a policy acceptable for all parties.

Dr. Krajnik shared that there would be a new Faculty Senate Executive Council as of April 27. Dr. Krajnik shared that she will be retiring and expressed her appreciated for having the positive experience on Faculty Senate and the work with the Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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