Board of Visitors

Board of Visitors Retreat
July 22-23, 2024
Berry Hill Resort & Conference Center
3105 River Road, South Boston, VA 24592

DRAFT
MINUTES

JULY 22, 2024

Board Members Present
Mr. Marquett Smith, Rector
Mr. Tyler Lester, Vice Rector
Mr. Dale S. Ardizzone
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout
Ms. Betsy D. Beamer
Ms. Joann S. Craig
Ms. Callie Dalton
Dr. Betty Jo Foster
Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert
Mr. George Mendiola, Jr.
Mr. David A. Smith
Mr. Jonathan Sweet

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
Mr. William C. Davis
Ms. Lisa W. Pompa
Mr. James C. Turk

OTHERS PRESENT
Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President
Ms. Karen Casteele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President
Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Danette Gomez Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communication
Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education,
Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs
Ms. Penny Helms White, Vice President for University Advancement

Welcome

Rector Marquett Smith called the Retreat to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Berry Hill Resort & Conference Center in South Boston, Virginia. Rector Smith led a conversion centered on Board culture and his commitment to effective leadership. Rector Smith shared the importance of focusing on the most important issues and exercising effective communication.

Comments and Overview

President Bret Danilowicz welcomed new members and provided a brief overview of where the university is as an institution, national trends and highlighted achievements of the past year. President Danilowicz described the upcoming Retreat to prepare for the next steps, including gaining a better understanding of Artificial Intelligence and preparing for the next six-year strategic plan.

GenAI: A Board Perspective

Samantha Steidle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Strategy and Director of the Venture Lab, along with Macie Rice, MBA, Management Instructor and Program Coordinator for the Venture Lab, introduced GenAI and its potential impact on higher education governance. Dr. Steidle and Ms. Rice explained the fundamentals of GenAI, contrasting it with traditional AI, and highlighted its rapid adoption across industries. They emphasized GenAI's potential to transform various aspects of higher education, including teaching, research and operations. The presenters discussed key benefits such as increased productivity, cost savings and improved decision-making. They also addressed important considerations like ethical guidelines and legal compliance. The presentation focused on governance implications, outlining critical areas for board oversight including policy development, strategic planning, budget allocation and compliance. Through interactive workshops, the presenters encouraged board members to engage with GenAI tools and consider how they could be leveraged to support Radford University's strategic plan.

Strategic Planning 2026-2031

Senior Vice President Scott Nostaja and Vice President Christopher Nickson, with The Segal Group, discussed with the Board and University Leadrship the planning methodology for the next strategic plan, the opportunities and challenges that have been identified and the assumptions going forward in developing the plan.

The Retreat adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

The Retreat resumed at 8:00 a.m.

Strategic Planning 2026-2031

Scott Nostaja and Christopher Nickson continued with leading a discussion on the critical and important priorities that should be addressed in the six-year plan and ways to enhance Radford University's reputation and institutional pride.

CLOSED SESSION

Rector Smith requested a motion to move into closed session. Mr. Tyler Lester made the motion that the Radford University Board of Visitors convene a closed session pursuant to **Section 2.2-3711 (A) Items 1 and 8** under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the discussion of for the discussion of personnel matters related to the president's performance plan and compensation, and consultation with legal counsel related to these matters. Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert seconded the motion. The Board of Visitors went into closed session at 11:00 a.m.

RECONVENED SESSION

Following closed session, public access to the meeting was reconnected. Rector Smith called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. On the motion made by Mr. Tyler Lester and seconded by Mr. George Mendiola, the following resolution of certification was presented.

Resolution of Certification

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Radford University Board of Visitors certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Roll Call	Vote
Mr. Tyler Lester	Yes
Mr. Dale S. Ardizzone	Yes
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout	Yes
Ms. Betsy D. Beamer	Yes
Ms. Joann S. Craig	Yes
Ms. Callie Dalton	Yes
Dr. Betty Jo Foster	Yes
Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert	Yes
Mr. George Mendiola	Yes
Mr. David A Smith	Yes
Mr. Jonathan Sweet	Yes
Mr. Marquett Smith	Yes

Approval of Performance Plan for 2024-2025

Rector Smith asked for a motion to approve the resolution for President Bret Danilowicz's Performance Plan for 2024-2025. Mr. Tyler Lester so moved, Mr. George Mendiola seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto as *Attachment A* and is made a part hereof.

SACSCOC ANNUAL SELF-EVALUATION

Rector Smith introduced the annual self-evaluation and asked Board members to complete the questionnaire.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a discussion of the Retreat, Rector Smith adjourned the Retreat at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Radford University Board of Visitors
Resolution

Performance Plan Approval for 2024-2025
President Bret Danilowicz

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Visitors hereby approves President Bret Danilowicz's Performance Plan for 2024-2025 and compensation, as discussed in closed session on July 23, 2024, and that said performance plan pursuant to Section E of the Employment Agreement with President Bret Danilowicz, dated December 7, 2021, is considered a personnel record.

Adopted: July 23, 2024

Marquett Smith
Rector
Radford University Board of Visitors

Karen Casteele
Secretary to the Board of Visitors
Radford University

End of Board of Visitors Materials