



**RADFORD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2025
KYLE HALL ROOM 340
RADFORD VA**

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair
Mr. William Davis, Vice Chair
Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout
Ms. Joann S. Craig
Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet
Dr. Matthew Close

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost
Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President
Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
Ms. Penny Helms White, Vice President for Advancement and University Relations
Communication
Dr. Dannette Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic
Communications
Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs
Additional Radford University administrators, faculty, and staff

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 9:48 am in Kyle Hall Room 340 on the campus of Radford University.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the December 4, 2025, agenda. Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout so moved, Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve September 11, 2025, minutes. Ms. Joann S. Craig so moved, Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Points of pride

- Provost Usher began by giving us a sampling of the Points of Pride in Academic Affairs this semester. Highlights included the College of Education and Human Development's Doctor of Education Program winning the Carnegie Program of the Year, support for student success and experiential learning, leadership in the Virginia Government Simulations, Health Education Outreach, the RADTalks symposia, Arts in the Community, Teaching with AI, and Tartan Transfer Summit.

Two-Year Plan Update

- Academic Affairs made great progress in the Two-Year Strategic Plan, with success in improving academic programming, stabilizing resources, and stabilizing enrollment. Significant accomplishments include:
 - Adoption of a new General Education program, to be implemented in Fall 2027
 - 81% of graduating students completing at least one high-impact experiential learning activity
 - Integration of Civil Discourse into the fabric of the institution, including Common Grounds conversations, annual speakers, and two Wake Forest Educating Character Grants that established the Center for Character and Public Impact
 - Shifts in academic programs to align with student interest, increasing efficiencies – including merging departments, ending underenrolled minors and a doctoral program.
 - Restructuring the Academic Affairs Leadership Team
 - Improved transfer pathways published (from 0 to 82)
 - Improved pass rates in 100 and 200 level courses
 - Improved First Time in College retention
 - Faculty to student ratio now and around 1 student to 18 faculty, faculty members stabilizing as student enrollment stabilizes
- Student Success (retention+graduation) is trending much better over the last five years, although there was some wobble in new freshmen and new transfers this year connected to changes in the admissions process.
 - Dr. Jerel Benton updated the committee on Retention and Graduation rates and what his team is doing to increase these rates.

Strategic Plan Goals

- Moving forward, Academic Affairs has been deeply involved in the development of the 2031 Strategic Plan. In the division, the top priorities for the next 6 years are:
 - Increase experiential learning
 - Foster additional multidisciplinary research collaborations

- Lead Southwest and Southside Virginia in supporting healthy communities and producing health care talent
- Developing Radford Online academic strategy and portfolio
- Developing and intentional, streamlined curricular portfolio
- Support faculty work life (Culture of Care)
- Academic Affairs is planning for expansion of health care mission, with a new mobile health clinic, hiring a new Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences, and development of a Center for Rural Health. All in addition to planning for a new Health Care education home in Roanoke (details on building planning in Finance presentation)
- Academic Affairs is being responsive to student and community needs, and to SCHEV's potential program productivity review, with the curriculum lifecycle process and committee.

Personnel Updates

- The Academic Affairs leadership team is almost complete, as searches are wrapping up for College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Dean, the AVP for Health Sciences, and the AVP for Radford Online. Dr. Agida Manizade was hired in the fall as the Assistant Provost for Graduate Affairs, completing a restructuring in that area.

Questions and Conversation

- Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet asked if we were forming a Rural Health Clinic.
 - We will have a Center for Rural Health within all the other areas to compliment programs that already exist
- Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet asked if the Mobile Health Clinic would perhaps turn into a permanent location.
 - This could be a possibility, however; we want to collaborate and be methodical about it.
 - President Danilowicz shared that there will be more information coming for this at the March BOV Meeting.
- Ms. Joann S. Craig asked for clarification on the Passport Office located within the University.
 - Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick stated that anyone, even the public, can use this service. You would need to make an appointment. They can do the passport pictures and well as the processing
 - Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet asked if the area Clerk of Courts were aware of this service because they could refer to our office. Provost Usher isn't aware if they have been notified or not but stated it wouldn't hurt for us to do more advertising about this service.
- Ms. Joann S. Craig asked about the funding for the Mobile Clinic
 - Funds are from Grants
- Ms. Joann S. Craig about 'other freshman' listed in the slide for Undergraduate Student Success: Retention and Graduation
 - Provost Usher explained that there are less than 200 students in this category. It comes from freshmen that do not get enough credits to move into the 'sophomore' category.

- Mr. William Davis, Co-Chair, wanted to know more about the Civil Discourse Activities
 - Some happened in classes (UNV100)
 - Helping faculty make teaching this easier through the help of CITL
 - Held an Open Forum on Oct 15, 2025, after questions from the “Coffee with the President” event.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution to discontinue B.S. in Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to discontinue B.S. in Biomedical Sciences. Mr. William Davis, Vice Chair, so moved, Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- Resolution to create B.S. in Geospatial and Earth Sciences Program
- Resolution to discontinue B.A./B.S. in Geology
- Resolution to discontinue B.A/B.S. in Geospatial Sciences

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to approve (as a block) the Resolution to create B.S. in Geospatial and Earth Sciences Program; Resolution to discontinue B.A./B.S. in Geology; Resolution to discontinue B.A./B.S. in Geospatial Sciences. Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet, so moved, Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Dr. Matthew Close, President of Faculty Senate, delivered updates.

- General Education – Committee’s have been formed and they are meeting. They are on tract to complete their work in the Fall of 2027
- AI Core Team was formed in Summer 2025
 - They recommended the creation of two AI task forces. One for Research and Scholarship and the other for Reaching and Pedagogy
 - Goal: “Help departments, programs, colleges, and universities respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities artificial intelligence (AI) presents for courses, curricula, and higher education in general.”
- COACHE Report
 - The report was available Summer 2025
 - The results are being reviewed by Faculty Senate Campus Environment Committee and Assistant Provost for Faculty and Curriculum
- UIGRC (University Internal Governance Review Committee (25-26)
 - Quadrennial review of shared governance documents and processes
 - Concluded May 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Chair, asked for a motion to adjourn the December 4, 2025, Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee Meeting. Mr. Jonathan D. Sweet so moved, and Ms. Joann S. Craig seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.