

**Student Affairs and Athletics Committee**

**2:30 p.m.**

**December 4, 2025**

**Kyle Hall 340, Radford, VA**

**DRAFT**

**Minutes**

**Committee Members' Present**

Mr. David Smith, Chair

Ms. Callie Dalton

Mr. James Turk

Mr. Dale Ardizzone

Mr. Anthony Moore

Ms. Dominika Butler (Non-Voting Student Advisory Member)

**Board Members Present**

Mr. Tyler Lester, Rector

Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, Vice Rector

Mr. Dale S. Ardizzone

Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout

Ms. Betsy D. Beamer

Ms. Joann Craig

Dr. Betty Jo Foster

Ms. Lisa Pompa

Mr. Jonathan Sweet

Ms. Mary Anne Holbrook

Dr. Matthew Close (Faculty Representative)

**Others Present**

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President

Ms. Susie Kuliasha, Senior Executive Assistant for the Office of the President

Mr. Ryan Bowyer, Chief of Staff

Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Executive Director of Government Relations

Dr. Dianne Gomez-Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications

Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration and CFO

Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ms. Penny White, Vice President for University Advancement

Ms. Susan Richardson, University Counsel

Mr. Cory Durand, Associate Director of Athletics

Mr. Owen Starr, President, Student Government Association

Mr. Bruce Hayden, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

Ms. Tricia Smith, Associate Vice President for Student Life

Ms. Nancy Loosle, Associate Vice President for Campus Life RUC

Mr. Jerel Benton, Assistant Provost for Student Success

Dr. Kristy Wilson, Associate Director, Connected Communities  
Dr. Shannon Shastry, Director, Connected Communities  
Dr. Mecca Marsh, Interim Director, Fraternity & Sorority Life

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. David Smith, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m. in Kyle Hall 340, Radford, Virginia, and welcomed everyone to the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the September , 2025 meeting agenda as published. Mr. James Turk so moved, Mr. Dale Ardizzone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September , 2025 Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting as published.

Mr. Anthony Moore so moved, Ms. Callie Dalton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Student Government Association (SGA) Report**

Mr. Owen Starr, SGA President, presented an update on SGA progress and initiatives. He reported significant advancement toward membership goals, noting that focused recruitment efforts resulted in 45 active members, all Cabinet roles filled, and all class-specific Senate seats fully occupied.

The SGA Senate continued efforts to amplify student perspectives across the institution. Highlights included the administration of the “*What Do You Want Wednesday?*” (WDYWW) survey, expanded outreach at Radford University Carilion (RUC), and individualized meetings with students to better understand their needs and priorities.

The SGA Cabinet maintained strong emphasis on increasing student engagement and school spirit. Initiatives included coordinating transportation for students to attend Athletic events and implementing a series of engagement-focused programs designed to strengthen campus involvement.

#### **Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs, provided an overview of Division-wide progress toward established two-year goals, noting strong advancement in the areas of outdoor experiences, well-being, student employment, and student engagement.

Dr. Trageser shared a highlight video of the 2nd annual Tartan 5K, reporting participation growth from 124 registrations in 2024 to 150 in 2025. Participants expressed overwhelmingly positive feedback, and planning is underway for the third annual event scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2026.

She emphasized the continued focus on cultivating a Culture of Care for both students and staff. Programs such as Fresh Check Day played a vital role in enhancing mental health awareness, connection, and well-being across campus.

Dr. Trageser highlighted the early impact of Connected Communities, the Division's newest unit launched in June 2025. Operated under the guiding message "come as you are," the unit centers its work on belonging, identity development, and holistic student support.

Connected Communities celebrated National First-Gen Week with programming honoring first-generation students and their allies. The week concluded with Courage to Rise, a collaborative event with the Military Resource Center to open Veteran's Appreciation Week. She noted that 62% of RU-affiliated military students are first-generation. The unit also continues to offer the Laptop Loaner Program to support students with limited technology access or emergent academic needs.

In alignment with Student Affairs' commitment to expanding student employment, Connected Communities is creating targeted program interventions, strengthening communication strategies, and hiring transfer and commuter students as part-time staff to further engage these populations. Both Connected Communities locations—Heth Hall and Trinkle Hall—have experienced heightened daytime student presence, as well as significant growth in space reservations for student organization meetings, events, and gatherings, including those hosted by faith-based groups.

Dr. Trageser recognized the leadership and intentional efforts of Dr. Shannon Shastry, Director, and Dr. Kristy Wilson, Associate Director, for their work in establishing the early success of Connected Communities.

Lastly, Dr. Trageser reported strong early-semester engagement across Student Affairs programming. Within the first four weeks of the term:

- 97% of first-time students engaged in at least one Student Affairs initiative
- 87% of new transfer students engaged during the same period

### **Intercollegiate Athletics Report**

Mr. Cory Durand, Associate Director of Athletics, provided an overview of Athletics related to facilities and capital improvements, competitive excellence, and important dates and initiatives.

An update was provided on the softball stadium renovation project. The new ASTROTURF artificial softball field has been completed. The remaining components of the project include installation of a new videoboard by Fairplay, scheduled for early January, and installation of new padded walls along the sides and outfield of the stadium. The project is expected to be fully completed prior to the softball team's first home competition, with a grand opening planned for early March.

Several competitive accomplishments across Radford Athletics were highlighted. The Women's Soccer program claimed its seventh Big South Regular Season Championship, all under the leadership of Head Coach Ben Sohrabi. The team advanced to the semifinals of the Big South Tournament and earned multiple postseason honors, including Big South Midfielder of the Year awarded to Lilly Short, Big South Defender of the Year and Big South Newcomer of the Year awarded to Amani Green, Big South Coach of the Year awarded to Ben Sohrabi, and additional Big South All-Conference recognitions for six student-athletes.

Men's Cross Country completed the season with a fifth-place finish in the Big South, and Hayat Khan was recognized as the Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Women's Cross Country finished third

overall, with Delaney Eller earning Big South Newcomer of the Year honors. The Volleyball program concluded the regular season in sixth place and advanced to the semifinals of the Big South Tournament. Men's Soccer finished sixth overall in the Big South. It was noted that Head Coach Chris Barrett has resigned, and the University is currently conducting a national search for the program's next head coach.

Updates were also provided on basketball programs. Men's Basketball currently holds a 3-7 overall record and is scheduled to host several home games during the month of December, including contests against Saint Francis, Coppin State, VMI, and Shenandoah. Women's Basketball currently holds a 5-5 overall record, with remaining non-conference games against Ohio, Concord, Hampton, and Virginia Tech. It was also noted that Head Coach Mike McGuire has achieved the most wins by any head coach in Radford Basketball history, men's or women's.

Lastly, Mr. Durand concluded with several upcoming athletics-related events and initiatives, including Basketball Alumni Weekend on January 24, 2026, which will include an Alumni Volunteer Summit and a men's and women's basketball doubleheader; RAD48, scheduled for February 3-5, 2026; and the Big South Basketball Championship, scheduled for March 4-8, 2026, in Johnson City, Tennessee.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Galyean-Goff  
Executive Assistant to the  
Vice President for Student Affairs