

# Student Affairs and Athletics Committee

September 2026



Radford  
UNIVERSITY



Student Affairs and Athletics Committee  
2:15 p.m.  
Sept 17th, 2026

**DRAFT**  
**Agenda**

- Call to Order Mr. David Smith, *Chair*
- Approval of Agenda Mr. David Smith, *Chair*
- Approval of Minutes Mr. David Smith, *Chair*
- Student Government Association Report Ms. Rylee Meadows, *Student Government Association President*
- Student Affairs Report Dr. Tricia Smith, *Interim Vice President for Student Affairs*
- Intercollegiate Athletics Report Dr. Robert Lineburg, *Director of Athletics*
- Other Business Mr. David Smith, *Chair*
- Adjournment Mr. David Smith, *Chair*

**\*\* All start times for committee meetings are approximate. Meetings may begin either before or after the listed approximate start time as committee members are ready to proceed.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. David A. Smith, Chair  
Mr. Tyler W Lester, Vice Chair  
Mr. Dale Ardizzzone  
Mr. Jonathan Sweet  
Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert  
Ms. Nancy Rice  
Ms. Callie Dalton  
Mr. Christopher Settle  
Ms. Rylee Meadows (Non-Voting Student Advisory Member)

# Meeting Materials



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# Student Government Association



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September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# Goal: Build Bridges and Pathways

❑ Develop meaningful connections between students, administration, faculty, and staff

- Meet with representatives from 10% of campus clubs and organizations
- Meet with Academic Deans once each semester
- Meet with President Danilowicz twice a semester



# Goal: Membership

- ☐ Strengthen SGA through recruitment, engagement, and retention.
  - Achieve 100% occupancy of all SGA positions (approximately 30 positions)



# Goal: Legislation

- ❑ Increase SGA's impact through policy and advocacy
  - Draft and pass at least two resolutions
  - Draft and introduce at least one bill



# Events

- Opening Picnic
- First Day Photos
- Club Fair
- SGA Speeches and Elections
- SGA Retreat



Thank You!

# Student Affairs

Tricia S. Smith, Ed.D.  
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

*September 2026*



Higher  
Ground



Radford  
Community  
Fest

Roanoke  
Star Trek



Summer at  
Selu



Guided  
Meditation



Highlander  
Float



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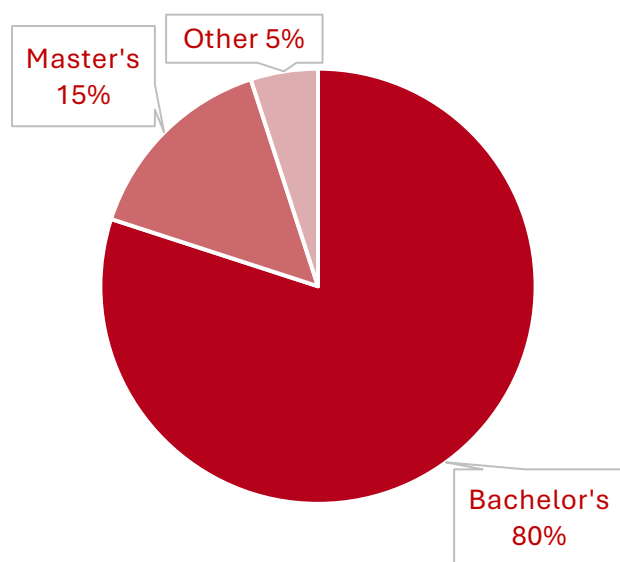
Student Affairs

**Student Affairs**

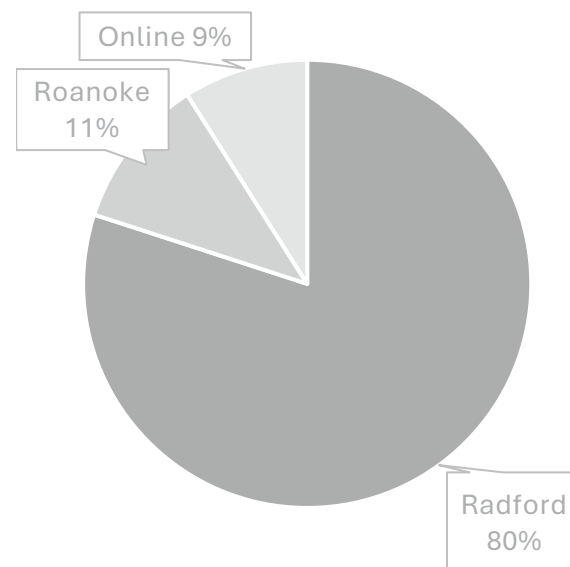
# Healthy Minds Study

Response Rate: 10.26%

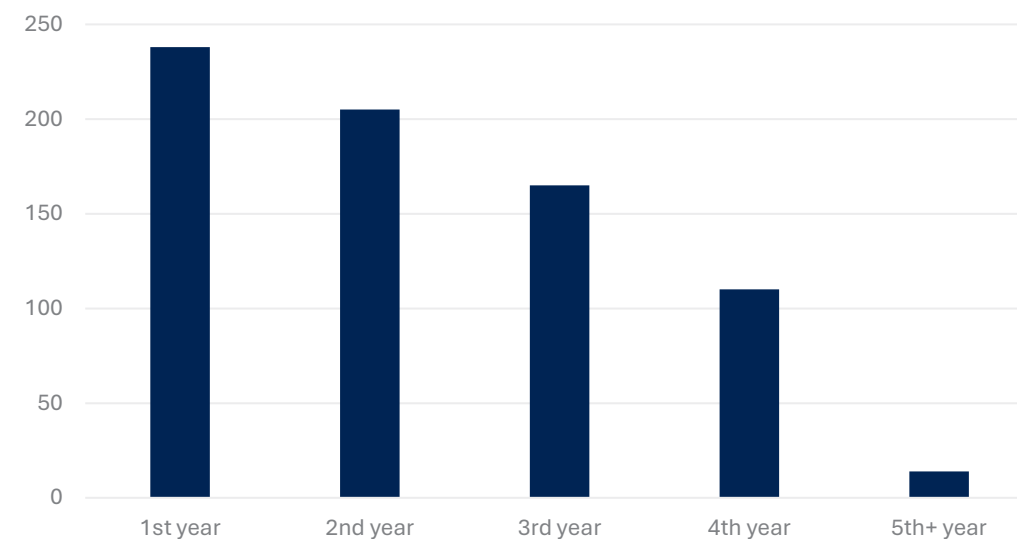
ACADEMIC PROGRAM



LOCATION



YEAR IN ACADEMIC PROGRAM



# Healthy Minds Study Trends

## STUDY QUESTIONS

- Food Insecurity
- Financial Stability
- Awareness of Resources
- Substance Use
- Academic Impairment due to Emotional/Mental Difficulties

## FREE RESPONSE

- Dining Services
- Health Insurance Assistance
- Gender Identity & Neurodivergent Support
- Academic Performance Support

## NEXT STEPS

- Review and Prioritize
- Communicate Results
- Strategies and Actions to Address and Improve



# What Comes Next?

Well-being

Student Success

Engagement  
Experiences

# Intercollegiate Athletics

Board of Visitors Report

**Robert Lineburg**

Director of Athletics

September 17, 2026



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# Academic Excellence

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## Women's Golf:

- Ranked #18 in the country in Women's Golf GPA
- Overall Team GPA of a 3.86
- 2nd year in a row ranked in the top-25

## Highlanders Rank Second in Big South Presidential Honor Roll

- 216 scholar-athletes named to the Presidential Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or higher)
- 85.04% of all scholar-athletes



# Highlander Softball

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## New Head Coach – Joe Pound:

- Previous five (5) seasons at St. Johns River State College in Florida
- 2024 NJCAA Softball National Championship
- Three straight seasons advancing to the College World Series
- Ranked #1 team in the country during the entire 2025 season
- FCSAA and NJCAA South District Coach of the Year nods in 2024, 2025 and 2026



# Highlander Softball

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## Molly Jacobson:

- Jacobson joins the Highlanders from University of Saint Francis (Ind.)
- Outstanding playing career as a pitcher at Virginia Tech and Wisconsin.



**WELCOME!**  
— TO THE NEW RIVER VALLEY —  
**MOLLY JACOBSON**  
SOFTBALL ASSISTANT COACH



## Ramses Cordova:

- Cordova joins the Highlanders from the baseball side of coaching at Lake Sumter State College. Consistently ranked in the top-25 each year.
- Outstanding baseball playing career at Winthrop and Bethune-Cookman.



**WELCOME!**  
— TO THE NEW RIVER VALLEY —  
**RAMSES CORDOVA**  
SOFTBALL ASSISTANT COACH



# Cross County/Track & Field

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## Paul Zalewski:

- Over 20 years of experience coaching at Purdue, Virginia Tech and East Carolina
- Focus on Jumps & Multis for Radford Track & Field

## Stephen Howard:

- Former head cross country coach at Blacksburg High School
- Lead the Bruins to 13 team state championships
- Focus on cross country and the distance program



# Competitive Excellence

## Women's Soccer

- 2-3 Overall (0-0 Big South) – as of Sept. 1
- Preseason picked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Big South
- Preseason Defender of the Year: Caityln Nottingham
- Preseason Goalkeeper of the Year: Lexi Radvanyi

## Men's Soccer

- 1-1 Overall (0-0 Big South) – as of Sept. 1
- 2-1 victory at home against James Madison. Head Coach Andy Cormack's first win as a head coach

## Volleyball

- 1-2 Overall (0-0 Big South) – as of Sept. 1
- Highlanders host the Radford Invitational Sept 18-19 with Norfolk State, Chattanooga, and Bellarmine



# Exit 109 Lager - Kindred Spirit Brewing Partnership

## New Exit 109 Lager

- Two (2) launch events in Richmond and in Radford
- Sold at 17 different locations in Radford/Fairlawn, including all three major grocery stores
- Picked up by two different distributors to service the NRV
- Timeline for the beer:
  - February 13 – beer tasting and name development w/ select group on donors/alumni
  - July 29 – official announcement of Exit 109 Lager
  - August 16 – Exit 109 launch in Richmond, VA
  - August 25 – Exit 109 launch in Radford, VA
  - Sept. 10 – Sold externally to the general public



# NCAA Update

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## **Age-Based Eligibility Model**

- Approved by the Division I Cabinet in June 2026
- Athletes now receive five years of eligibility and removes any redshirt rules.

## **New Lawsuits**

- Wisne v. NCAA – a federal judge granted a sweeping nationwide preliminary injunction, temporarily ordering the NCAA to halt the exclusion and allow a nationwide class of Division I athletes to compete for a 5<sup>th</sup> season during the 2026-27 academic year.
- Over 35 spin-off lawsuits have come from the Wisne v. NCAA requesting immediate Temporary Restraining Orders to get athletes playing now

## **Protect College Sports Act**

- The U.S. Senate is currently debating a revised bill
- Aims to establish unified national rules for NIL, transfers, and athlete health protections, while granting the NCAA antitrust immunity to prevent continuous lawsuits

# Important Dates & Initiatives

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## RAD Giving Day 2026

- September 22-23 – annual department wide fundraising event

## Athletics Hall of Fame Ceremony

- October 23
- 2026 Hall of Fame Class includes:
  - Frederi Rondeau '92 (MSOC)
  - Chelsea Kelley '11 (SB)
  - Teresa Williamson '15 (XC/T&F)
  - Matt Hillsinger '12 (BB)



# Discussion

# Minutes



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**Student Affairs and Athletics Committee**

**2:30 p.m.**

**June 4th, 2026**

**Kyle Hall 340, Radford, VA**

**DRAFT**

**Minutes**

**Committee Members Present**

Mr. David Smith, Chair

Ms. Callie Dalton

Mr. James Turk

Mr. Dale Ardizzone

Mr. Chris Settle

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

**Board Members Present**

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

Mr. Jonathan Sweet

Ms. Mary Anne Holbrook

Mr. George Mendiola Jr.

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. Susan Richardson, University Counsel

Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Executive Director of Government Relations

Dr. Dannette 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. Tricia Smith, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

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

Ms. Penny White, Vice President for University Advancement

Mr. Robert Lineburg, Athletics Director

Mr. Cory Durand, Associate Director of Athletics

Mr. Owen Starr, President, Student Government Association (ZOOM)  
Mr. Bruce Hayden, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students  
Dr. Nancy Loosle, Associate Vice President for Campus Life RUC  
Mr. Derek Neal, Chief Executive Officer, Radford University Foundation  
Mr. Jerel Benton, Assistant Provost for Student Success  
Mr. David Perryman, Associate Vice President, Strategic Communications  
Mrs. Laura Turk, Executive Director, Alumni Relations

### **Call to Order**

Mr. David Smith, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m. in Kyle Hall Room 340, Radford, Virginia. Mr. Smith welcomed everyone to the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the June 4, 2026 meeting agenda, as published. Ms. Callie Dalton so moved, Mr. James C. Turk seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the March 2026 Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting minutes, as published. Mr. James C. Turk so moved, Ms. Callie Dalton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Owen Starr, Student Government Association President, provided an update on the organization's activities and priorities. He highlighted SGAs continued focus on legislation, advocacy, and collaboration with university administrators based on student feedback.

Mr. Starr reported on several Senate initiatives, including constitutional revisions, implementation of the Syllabi Resolution, awareness campaigns, and onboarding efforts for incoming senators. He also discussed the creation of a Director of Technology position to help streamline organizational processes.

Cabinet initiatives included Unity Fest, Safe Fun in the Sun, Earth Week programming, St. Patrick's Day Pickup, Police on the Plaza, and other student engagement efforts designed to foster community among students.

Mr. Starr introduced the incoming Executive Officers for the 2026-2027 academic year:

- President: Rylee Meadows

- Vice President: Aurora Lara
- Chief of Staff: Jacky Turman
- Chief Activities Officer: Emerson Sims
- Chief Financial Officer / Student Finance Committee Chair: Reginald Johnson

Mr. Starr concluded by thanking Student Affairs leadership for their continued support of SGA and student leadership development.

### **Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Tricia Smith, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, provided an update on student engagement initiatives, year-end programming, student well-being efforts, and strategic planning activities.

Dr. Smith highlighted the success of the Spring 2026 Year End Bash events held on both the Radford and Radford University Carilion campuses. Participation included 94.44% of first-time-in-college students and 84.94% of new transfer students. Student feedback indicated strong levels of connection and engagement, with many students reporting that the events enhanced their Highlander experience.

Dr. Smith recognized recipients of the 2026 Outstanding Student Awards and highlighted the accomplishments of students who demonstrated exceptional leadership, academic achievement, service, and commitment to the university community.

An update was also provided regarding Traditions Week 2026. Programming included a variety of engagement opportunities designed to connect students with university traditions and foster Highlander pride. More than 900 students attended the Traditions Week concert, while hundreds more participated in additional events throughout the week.

Dr. Smith discussed student well-being efforts, including participation in the Healthy Minds Network Survey. The survey, recognized nationally for assessing college student mental health and well-being, achieved a 10.26% response rate. Results are currently being analyzed and will be used to inform future well-being initiatives and student support services.

Lastly, Dr. Smith provided an update on the Division of Student Affairs strategic planning process. The Division continues to align priorities with the university's strategic plan, *Shaping Tomorrow – Together*, focusing on student engagement, well-being, and career readiness. Work is underway to develop a new divisional mission, vision, and SMART goals that will guide future efforts and support student success.

### **Intercollegiate Athletics Report**

Mr. Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics, reported on academic and competitive accomplishments from the Spring 2026 semester.

Academically, Radford Athletics achieved an overall departmental GPA of 3.45, with 15 of 16 athletic programs earning a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. More than half of all student-athletes earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher, while 52 student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA. Women's Golf led all programs with a 3.85 team GPA.

Mr. Lineburg highlighted several individual academic achievements, including two Big South Scholar-Athletes of the Year, three Big South Christenberry Award recipients, and Tyler Pulik earning the Bob McCloskey Graduate Fellowship.

Competitive successes included:

- Softball finishing third in the Big South regular season standings, with Dakota Redmon earning Big South Pitcher of the Year honors for the second consecutive year.
- Women's Track and Field placing third overall at the Big South Championships, with Jeylah Hamrick winning the conference championship in the 400-meter event.
- Baseball finishing fifth in the regular season and earning multiple All-Conference selections.
- Women's Lacrosse qualifying for the Big South Tournament for the first time since 2021.
- Women's Golf receiving multiple conference honors, including Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year recognition for Macy Johnson.

Mr. Lineburg also acknowledged the commitment of student-athletes to community engagement through volunteerism and service initiatives throughout the year.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Callie Dalton so moved, Mr. Dale Ardizzone seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Stephanie Galyean-Goff**

Executive Assistant to the  
Vice President for Student Affairs

End of Board of Visitors Materials

