Radford University | Faculty Senate

Motions of the 2026-2027 Faculty Senate

https://www.radford.edu/faculty-senate/motions.html

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Motion 26-27.01 Motion to Preserve the Existing Upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) Requirement

Faculty Senate supports maintaining the requirement that students have at least three credit hours of 300-level or above course work coded as Writing Intensive (WI) as a university requirement. This requirement is not part of the General Education Program, but curricular oversight of this requirement will be conducted by the General Education Committee.

Rationale:
As part of the REAL General Education Curriculum, all students who were not exempted from completing the REAL Curriculum were required to complete at least three credit hours of course work coded as Writing Intensive (WI) at the 300-level or above. That requirement will be in effect as part of general education for incoming students through the summer of 2027. This motion, if passed, will preserve that requirement, but as a university requirement, not as part of any general education curriculum.

Having an upper-level writing requirement for all students will be good for students. Being able to write well at an advanced level is a skill long considered appropriate for college graduates to have and is a skill beneficial for students in any professional and personal setting. While this skill has always been important, it may be now more important than ever given the impact of Large Language Models on all forms of writing.

Having an upper-level writing requirement has the support of many faculty members. On 1 May 2025, Faculty Senate debated a motion that would have eliminated the upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) requirement (see Motion 24-25.29) from the general education program. While it was noted that the requirement could impede the path to graduation, several senators spoke against the motion, specifically highlighting the need for students to have advanced writing skills. The motion to eliminate the requirement failed.

Maintaining this requirement by making it a university requirement beginning for students entering the university in Fall 2027 will not be difficult. Programs already have ways for their students to satisfy the requirement. All upper-level courses currently coded WI can remain so. The conditions for getting new upper-level courses coded as WI can remain as they are, and the learning goals and outcomes can remain as they are. (Those conditions, goals, and outcomes were defined in Motion 19-20.04.) Assessment plans can remain in place. And although it will be a university rather than a general education requirement, oversight of the requirement can be handled by the committee overseeing the general education program.

With all the apparatus needed to support a requirement that has the support of many faculty members, it is sensible to maintain a requirement that is a boon to student learning.

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Motion 26-27.02 Motion to Allow Waivers of the Find Your Place Requirement

The Faculty Senate approves allowing transfer students to receive a waiver from the Find Your Place requirement of the General Education Program. The following language detailing this waiver will be added to the catalog.

Find Your Place Requirement and Transfer Student Waiver
The Find Your Place requirement (RADF 101- University Seminar or an approved equivalent course) is a component of the General Education curriculum and is required of all first-time-in-college (FTIC) students, defined as students enrolling at the university following high school graduation (or equivalent) who have not previously attended another postsecondary institution after high school, excluding college credit earned through dual enrollment or other alternative credit earned while in high school

Transfer students, defined as students who have attended another postsecondary institution after high school graduation (or equivalent) and are admitted with transferable college coursework, who have earned at least 24 transferable semester credit hours from a regionally accredited institution prior to the start of their first term at Radford University, will receive a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. Transfer credit eligibility and applicability will be determined by the Office of the Registrar. Students granted a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement must still complete a minimum total of 30 credit hours of General Education coursework.

Credit earned through dual enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, CLEP, or other alternative credit mechanisms does not qualify an FTIC student for a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. FTIC students remain subject to the requirement unless exempt through completion of an associate degree.

Students who enter the university with a completed associate degree from a regionally accredited institution are exempt from the Find Your Place requirement. This exemption is consistent with university policies recognizing the completion of a full general education curriculum. Students admitted as FTIC students who have completed an associate degree are exempt from the requirement but are strongly encouraged to enroll in University Seminar (RADF 101).

In exceptional circumstances, a student may petition for a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. Petitions must be initiated by the student's academic advisor and submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Curriculum for review. Waivers are granted on a case-by-case basis and are not automatic. Consideration will be given to the student's academic preparation and demonstrated likelihood of success without the course.

Rationale:
Since the introduction of the General Education Program, it has always been the intention that transfer students who arrive with significant levels of transfer credit could be exempt from the Find Your Place requirement of the General Education Program, which for most students will be

RADF 101. This motion establishes the circumstances under which a transfer student may get this exemption.

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Motion 26-27.03 Motion to Add Minimum Grade Requirement for Honors College Credit

Referred by the Curriculum Committee

MOTION:

The Faculty Senate recommends the addition of a minimum grade requirement for honors credit in both Honors College curricular tracks. The minimum grade recommended is a C. Passing grades below this C threshold for honors courses could still count toward other major, minor, general education, or other graduation requirements, but not in the honors curriculum. The text from the Honors College section of the 2026-27 University Academic Catalog is copied below with proposed deletions ~~struck through~~ and proposed additions in red text.

Requirements For Graduation as a Highlander Honors Scholar

To graduate from Radford University as a Highlander Honors Scholar, students must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA in Radford coursework and complete at least 27 hours of honors credits in accordance with the requirements listed below~~:~~. All honors credits must be earned with a grade of C (or P for Pass-Fail courses).

- 15 credit hours in any honors-designated courses
- 9 credit hours of work in any combination of study abroad, independent study or undergraduate research, honors contracts, HNRS 300, and HNRS 310.
- 3 credit hours in an honors capstone project (DEPT 488) in the major.
- The honors capstone project must be presented at a scholarly conference or other public venue, in conjunction with the submission of a written reflective critique of the work.
- A student may transfer a maximum of 12 hours of college honors courses into the College toward the Highlander Honors Scholar curriculum.

Requirements For Graduation with the Highlander Honors Distinction

To graduate from Radford University with the Highlander Honors Distinction, students must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA in Radford coursework and complete at least 15 hours of honors credit in accordance with the requirements listed below~~:~~. All honors credits must be earned with a grade of C (or P for Pass-Fail courses).

- 3 credit hours in any combination of HNRS 300, HNRS 310, or both.
- 9 credit hours of work in any combination of study abroad, independent study or undergraduate research, honors contracts, or honors courses.
- 3 credit hours in an honors capstone project (DEPT 488) in the major.

- The honors capstone project must be presented at a scholarly conference or other public venue, in conjunction with the submission of a written reflective critique of the work.
- A student may transfer a maximum of 6 hours of college honors courses into the College toward the Highlander Honors Distinction.

RATIONALE:

This recommendation is based on faculty expectations that honors-level work meet higher standards than that of non-honors work, but also a standard that encourages students to take intellectual risks when pursuing honors credits

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Motion 26-27.04 Resolution to request aggregate report on sexual violence at Radford University

The Faculty Senate requests that the Radford University administration, in consultation with the Office of Title IX, Office of Student Conduct, and other appropriate university offices, prepare and present a comprehensive, aggregate written report concerning allegations of sexual violence and related sexual misconduct reported during calendar years 2021 through 2025.

The purpose of this report is to promote institutional transparency, evaluate the university's response to allegations of sexual violence and sexual misconduct, and support informed discussion of university policies and procedures.

The report should include, to the extent that records are available, the following information for each calendar year:

1. Reports and Complaints**:** The total number of reports of alleged sexual violence or sexual misconduct received by the university, distinguishing between reports received, formal complaints filed, and complaints referred for formal investigation or resolution.
2. Complaint Dispositions: The number of formal complaints by final disposition, including:
    - Findings of responsibility
    - Findings of no responsibility
    - Dismissals, including the reasons for dismissal where available
    - Withdrawals
    - Informal resolutions
    - Complaints remaining pending or otherwise unresolved
3. Findings of Responsibility: The number of complaints resulting in a finding of responsibility under the applicable standard of evidence, including identification of the standard used during each reporting period.
4. Disciplinary Outcomes: For complaints resulting in findings of responsibility, the number and types of disciplinary sanctions imposed, including suspension, expulsion, termination of employment, and other institutional sanctions. Where feasible, results should distinguish between student and employee respondents.
5. Appeals and Final Outcomes: The annual number of appeals filed following determinations of responsibility or no responsibility, including the number of original determinations upheld, modified, or overturned, and any resulting changes in disciplinary sanctions.
6. Resolution Timelines: The median length of time required to resolve formal complaints and the number of cases exceeding established institutional resolution timelines.
7. Institutional Policy Changes: A summary of significant changes to university policies, definitions, reporting requirements, or complaint resolution procedures during the reporting period that may affect the interpretation or comparability of the data.

The report should present information in an annual, comparative format that allows the Faculty Senate to examine trends across the reporting period. The university should clearly identify any unavailable data, changes in reporting or classification practices, and limitations affecting the

interpretation of the findings. In order to protect the identity of individuals, small cells may be collapsed with included notations to clarify the data presented.
All information shall be presented in aggregate, de-identified form, consistent with applicable federal and state privacy laws and the need to protect the confidentiality of individuals involved in these proceedings.

The Faculty Senate requests that this report be presented at a regularly scheduled Senate meeting within 60 days of adoption of this motion, with an opportunity for senators to ask questions concerning the findings and the university's policies and procedures.

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Motion 26-27.05 Resolution to recommend minimum sanctions for student conduct adjudication for sexual violence

Referred by Faculty Senate Executive Council

The Faculty Senate recommends that the minimum sanction for student conduct violations for sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, and forcible sexual conduct, be suspension for 5 years.

RATIONALE: Recent cases of reported sexual assault at Radford University and across the nation highlight the need for meaningful action focused on accountability. Sexual assault is among the most serious violations because these threaten the safety, dignity, autonomy, and educational opportunities of everyone on campus. A minimum sanction of five years of expulsion for students found responsible for sexual violence reflects the severity of the misconduct and demonstrates the university's commitment to maintaining a safe campus environment.

Radford University has both an ethical and legal responsibility to provide an environment free from violence, coercion, and fear. This is a fundamental element of students' rights to academic freedom as established by the longstanding principles of the American Association of University Professors [1]. Sexual violence often causes significant and lasting harm to survivors and is fundamentally inconsistent with the values of respect, integrity, and personal responsibility expected of our community.

The primary purpose of student conduct sanctions is to protect the campus community. Removing individuals found responsible for sexual violence reduces the risk of future harm, reinforces expectations regarding consent and respectful behavior, and promotes confidence that the university responds consistently and fairly to substantiated acts of sexual violence. This sanction length may also allow victims to continue their pursuit of educational goals without the presence of the perpetrator.

[1] AAUP Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students, 1992 (1967). https://www.aaup.org/reports-publications/aaup-policies-reports/policy-statements/joint-statement-rights-and-freedoms

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Motion 26-27.06 Motion to Request for a Report on Student Conduct Involving Greek Organizations at Radford University

Referred by Faculty Senate Executive Council

The Radford University Faculty Senate requests that the appropriate University offices, including Student Affairs, Student Conduct, and Title IX, prepare a report on student conduct involving recognized fraternities and sororities for the years 2021-2025.

The report should include, to the extent permitted by federal and Virginia law:

1. The number of complaints, investigations, findings, and sanctions involving fraternities and sororities, including sexual misconduct and assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking, hazing, alcohol- and drug-related violations, and other serious misconduct.
2. Organizational sanctions, including probation, suspension, restrictions on activities, or loss of recognition.
3. Available information about incidents involving Greek organization members, sponsored events, or organization-controlled facilities.
4. Where possible, comparisons of conduct violations involving Greek organizations and the general student population.
5. Current prevention and educational requirements, including programming on sexual misconduct, bystander intervention, hazing, and substance use.
6. Any trends, concerns, or recommendations identified by the University related to student safety and organizational accountability.
7. Notations if any data are excluded and documentation for reasoning for the exclusion of aggregate data.

The report should only rely on aggregate data, comply with applicable federal and Virginia laws, and be presented to the Faculty Senate within 60 days of this request.

Rationale: The purpose of this report is to better understand student safety concerns, the University's response to reported incidents, and the effectiveness of current oversight and prevention efforts and aligns with the work of the newly appointed internal body examining Greek Life on campus.

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Motion 26-27.07 Motion to Request a Temporary Pause on Fraternity and Sorority Recruitment and Social Activities at Radford University

Referred by Faculty Senate Executive Council

The Radford University Faculty Senate requests that the University administration immediately implement a temporary pause on fraternity and sorority activities that may increase risks to student safety.

This request reflects concerns about hazing, sexual misconduct, alcohol-related violations, and other serious student conduct issues. The pause would allow the University to review these concerns and evaluate current policies, oversight, and prevention efforts.

The pause should include:

1. All recruitment, new-member intake, and initiation-related activities.
2. Fraternity- and sorority-sponsored social events, including parties, mixers, formals, and similar gatherings, whether on or off campus.
3. Other organizational activities that the University determines may present increased risks to student safety.

These restrictions should also apply to organizational activities presented as unofficial events to avoid University oversight.

Routine organizational meetings, academic activities, philanthropy, and community service may continue provided they do not present elevated risks to students.

The pause should remain in place while the University reviews student conduct concerns, oversight practices, and prevention efforts. The administration should establish clear criteria for resuming activities, including any additional educational or safety requirements.

The Faculty Senate requests a written response within 30 days outlining the actions taken, the review process, and the conditions for lifting the pause.

Rationale:
This request is intended as a precautionary student safety measure and does not imply wrongdoing by any individual student or organization.

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Motion 26-27.10 Motion to Allow Waivers of the Find Your Place Requirement for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 Catalogs

Referred by Faculty Senate Executive Council

The Faculty Senate approves a transfer student waiver for the Find Your Place requirement of the General Education Program for AY 2027-2028 and AY 2028-2029.for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 academic years based on the following conditions. During the 2027-28 academic year, the General Education Committee and the Faculty Senate will review how transfer students should complete the Find Your Place requirement. This two-year period allows us to find the best way to meet the needs of these transfer students. The following language detailing this waiver will be added to the 2027-28 and 2028-29 catalog.

Find Your Place Requirement and Transfer Student Waiver

The Find Your Place requirement (RADF 101- University Seminar or an approved equivalent course) is a component of the General Education curriculum and is required of all first-time-in-college (FTIC) students, defined as students enrolling at the university following high school graduation (or equivalent) who have not previously attended another postsecondary institution after high school, excluding college credit earned through dual enrollment or other alternative credit earned while in high school

Transfer students who have earned at least 24 transferable semester credit hours prior to the start of their first term at Radford University, will receive a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. Transfer credit eligibility and applicability will be determined by the Office of the Registrar. Students granted a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement must still complete a minimum total of 30 credit hours of General Education coursework.

Credit earned through dual enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, CLEP, or other alternative credit mechanisms does not qualify an FTIC student for a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. FTIC students remain subject to the requirement unless exempt through completion of an associate degree.

Students who enter the university with a completed associate degree from a regionally accredited institution are exempt from the Find Your Place requirement. This exemption is consistent with university policies recognizing the completion of a full general education curriculum. Students admitted as FTIC students who have completed an associate degree are exempt from the requirement but are strongly encouraged to enroll in University Seminar (RADF 101).

In exceptional circumstances, a student may petition for a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. Petitions must be initiated by the student's academic advisor and submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Curriculum for approval. Waivers are granted on a case-by-case basis and are not automatic. Consideration will be given to the student's academic preparation and demonstrated likelihood of success without the course.

Rationale:
Since the introduction of the General Education Program, it has always been the intention that transfer students who arrive with significant levels of transfer credit could be exempt from the Find Your Place requirement of the General Education Program, which for most students will be RADF 101. This motion establishes the circumstances under which a transfer student may get this exemption. Transfer students are defined as students who have attended another postsecondary institution after high school graduation (or equivalent) and are admitted with transferable college coursework.

This two-year period will allow the university to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the transfer waiver, using student outcomes and advising experiences to determine whether any adjustments are needed.

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Motion 26-27.09 Motion to support changes in academic policy related to catalog expiration

Referred by Faculty Senate Executive Council

The Faculty Senate recommends changes in academic policy related to catalog expiration as outlined in the attached document from the Academic Policy and Procedures Committee.

Rationale: Considerations given to this motion by the Academic Policy and Procedures Committee are included in the attached document.

Attachment

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Motion 26-27.10 Motion to support changes in readmission policy

Referred by Faculty Senate Executive Council

The Faculty Senate recommends changes in academic policy related to readmission as outlined in the attached document from the Academic Policy and Procedures Committee.

Rationale: Considerations given to this motion by the Academic Policy and Procedures Committee are included in the attached document.

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