

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

2:30 P.M.

MARCH 23, 2023

KYLE HALL, ROOM 340, RADFORD, VA

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. David Smith, Chair
Mr. Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, Vice Chair
Mr. George Mendiola, Jr.
Ms. Lisa Throckmorton
Mr. James Turk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Michaela Baker, Non-Voting Student Advisory Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President
Ms. Karen Castele, Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Special Assistant to the President
Dr. Marten denBoer, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Robert Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
Mr. Mike Melis, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs
Ms. Penny White, Interim Vice President for University Advancement and University Relations

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. David Smith, Chair, formally called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm in Kyle Hall on the campus of Radford University.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the March 23, 2023 meeting agenda for the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee, as published. Ms. Georgia Ann Snyder-Falkinham so moved, Ms. Lisa Throckmorton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Ms. Justine McLaughlin, Student Government Association President, presented an update on SGA initiatives and programming. SGA hosted Advocacy Day with 48 students participating in the annual event that provides students the opportunity to advocate to members of the Virginia General Assembly on behalf of the university. Justine thanked Board of Visitors member, Jennifer Gilbert, for hosting a legislative panel for participants. Radford University was recognized on the House and Senate floors.

As part of an initiative to increase student involvement in the Radford community, SGA participated in community service projects in conjunction with the Women's Resource Center and held a Valentine's Day event at McHarg Elementary. The annual UnityFest event, a community celebration of diversity and inclusion, will be held in April.

Ms. C'erra Rhodes, Student Representative to SCHEV, updated the committee on the focus of the SCHEV Student Advisory Council this year. Ms. Brianna Bray was the other appointed student SCHEV representative but was unable to attend the meeting. The Council meetings were held both virtually and in person to allow for more participation. The members organized into three subcommittees: Mental Health; Sexual Assault and Harassment; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The committees shared resources available to students on their respective campuses and avenues to make students aware of these resources.

Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs, gave an update on the Student Affairs goals. Through process mapping, Student Affairs staff have been reviewing and updating policies, business practices and procedures to increase efficiency, reduce errors and ensure compliance all with the goal of easing student use and access. Student Affairs has developed a student employment success plan. The plan implements academic success interventions, intentional check-ins and referrals to other departments for student employees when needed. The goal is that students will articulate skill development as outlined by NACE competencies. Within Student Affairs there are currently 263 student employees and 32 supervisors.

The Military Resource Center (MRC) was moved to the Division of Student Affairs which has allowed for a full-time director and direct student support for military affiliated students. The MRC, along with two veteran students, had the honor of being highlighted on the Lifetime TV Military Makeover Operation Career show. Staff have begun attending education fairs on military bases to meet with potential students.

The Higher Ground, wilderness orientation program, was launched during the fall semester. The program takes place over five days, camping at Selu Conservancy and focusing on using resources and problem solving to navigate conflicts. In addition to professional staff, student employees are trained over a two-year period to become certified to lead such wilderness trips.

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) continues to make strides to reshape the culture of the community. The new member academy was launched this year. The training focuses on community service, officer training, and diversity and inclusion. There was 100% completion of the academy by new FSL members in the fall semester. Anti-hazing training, as outlined under Adam's Law, was implemented. Nearly all FSL members have completed the training.

Mr. Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics, shared information on academic success, the student-athlete experience and subcommittee updates. The combined GPA for all student athletes for the fall semester was 3.3 with 66 athletes having a 4.0 GPA. Women's Indoor Track and Field, along with both Men's and Women's Basketball teams, had successful seasons ranked in the Big South Conference.

There is currently a shortage of athletic trainers across the country. Requirements for athletic trainers is being updated to help support the demand. The NCAA D1 Transformation Committee has completed their work and issued a final report on January 3, 2023.

Sports Synergy has been secured to develop a feasibility study focused on allowing outside entities to host events at the athletic facilities. Mental health initiatives have been put in place for student-athletes including support groups, counseling hours held in the athletic facilities and participation in the Healthy Highlanders and Suicide Prevention programs.

Mr. Lineburg gave an overview of athletic fundraising efforts. There has been an increase in corporate sponsorships. There has also been an increase in participation from season ticket holders due to the new courtside lounge.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jenni Webb
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Secretary to the Committee

End of Board of Visitors Materials

