

**Motion to Establish a Faculty Task Force
to Make Recommendations on Internal Governance Revision**

Whereas, The current Internal Governance Document was developed 15 years ago; and

Whereas, There is widespread concern that at least some aspects of our current Internal Governance Document are in need of review and revision; and

Whereas, Some of the committees specified by the current Internal Governance Document have not met or have not met regularly in several years; and

Whereas, Recent events have highlighted the importance of a properly functioning internal governance system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The Faculty Senate of Radford University directs that an Internal Governance Faculty Task Force (hereinafter “FTF”) shall be established to examine the need for revision of internal governance at Radford University and, to the extent such a need is identified, to formulate, for consideration by the Faculty Senate, a process for revision of internal governance to be recommended on behalf of the faculty to all other university constituencies. Specifically,

1. The membership of the FTF shall consist of one member of the Faculty Senate Governance Committee, one member of the Faculty Senate Faculty Issues Committee, one member of the Faculty Senate Executive Council, and four additional at-large members.
2. The members representing committees shall be selected by a vote of their respective committees, and the selections reported to the senate at the meeting on October 8th, 2009. Any member of the Teaching and Research Faculty may be nominated to serve as an at-large member, whether or not she or he is a senator or a member of a committee(s) from which another representative has already been selected. At-large members must be nominated by a faculty senator with the nominee's consent. All nominations are to be made at the regular faculty senate meeting on October 8th, 2009, immediately after which the at-large members shall be chosen by means of a written poll of the senators present, in which each senator shall list four names on his/her ballot from among the nominees. The four nominees receiving the greatest number of votes from all ballots shall be appointed as at-large members of the FTF.
3. The FTF shall provide its recommendations to the senate 6 weeks from its date of constitution, at the regular senate meeting on November 19th, 2009. The recommendations are to address two questions:
 1. Is significant revision of the current Internal Governance Document needed for the effective governance of the university?
 2. If the answer to the first question is “yes,” then what process should the senate recommend that the administration, faculty, and staff follow for effectively revising internal governance at Radford University?

The FTF shall restrict its recommendations to the scope of these two questions. In particular, it is not the purview of the FTF to formulate specific recommendations for changes to the Internal Governance Document or to any particular governing processes

at the university.

RATIONALE: Internal Governance is more than a faculty issue; it is a university issue affecting administration, staff, faculty, and students, and requires the close involvement of each of these constituencies. However, it is the faculty that has, in partnership with the administration, the lead role in evaluating and promoting shared governance at Radford University. In consequence, it is appropriate that the Faculty Senate, as the voice and representative of the whole faculty, take the initiative to ensure that our internal governance documents and procedures are effective.

However, it is not for the faculty to arrogate to itself alone the responsibility to determine what our internal governance procedures should be. By creating the IG Faculty Task Force, the faculty senate presently takes responsibility only for determining whether the current system is adequate and, if it is not, for calling on the administration and other university constituencies to consider its recommendation for a process of revision which if adopted will lead to improved internal governance at Radford University.

If a process for revision is to be recommended, the recommendation should be made in a manner sufficiently timely so that it can be considered by other university constituencies and then initiated before the current academic year is already behind us. It is for this reason that a fixed time frame must be set for the task force's deliberations.