

## **Motion to Recommend a Process for Revision of the Radford University Internal Governance System**

*Whereas*, Much of the language in the current Internal Governance Document has been outdated by the reorganization of both academic and administrative units of the university; and

*Whereas*, The current Internal Governance Document is unacceptably vague about the duties and privileges of the university's constituent members, councils, senates, and committees, and moreover lacks a succinct and clear summary of its own principles and structure; and

*Whereas*, The current Internal Governance Document does not expressly grant to the Teaching and Research Faculty the primary responsibility for decisions affecting academic programs and curricula, as required by our accrediting agency; and

*Whereas*, The current Internal Governance Document does not provide mechanisms to ensure transparency of Radford University's organization, decision-making processes, and budget; and

*Whereas*, The current Internal Governance Document does not provide for clear channels of communication that are both public and transparent and that ensure closure of feedback among the Board of Visitors, members of the administration, the faculty, and other constituencies; and

*Whereas*, Constituencies other than the Teaching and Research Faculty, including the administrative faculty, the staff, and such units as the library, are known to be dissatisfied with at least some aspects of the current Internal Governance system; and

*Whereas*, The creation of an effective system of Internal Governance must involve the close cooperation of all university constituencies; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, The Faculty Senate of Radford University recommends to the Administration and other Constituent Units the following Process for Revision of Internal Governance at Radford University:

1. The President of the University will convene a Steering Committee for Internal Governance Revision (SCIGR) by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The SCIGR will consist of the following members, chosen by their corresponding constituencies:
  - 3 Members of the Teaching and Research Faculty,
  - 1 Senior member of the RU Administration,
  - 1 Member of the Administrative and Professional Faculty,
  - 1 Member of the RU Staff, and
  - 1 Student.

Additionally, the President will hire an external consultant to the SCIGR to advise the committee on best practices in university governance and on alternatives for meeting the specific needs of Radford University.

2. The SCIGR will complete the following steps:
  1. Review the current Internal Governance Document(s) and alternative governance structures, and identify best practices with the Consultant.

2. Identify constituencies and request the formation of constituency committees.
  3. Report on preliminary research to each constituency committee and coordinate committee objectives and timelines.
  4. Receive, review, and integrate constituent committee proposals.
  5. Produce a completed Internal Governance proposal.
  6. Submit the proposal to each constituency for ratification.
  7. Submit the proposal to the Board of Visitors for approval.
3. The following timeline is to be observed by all constituencies and committees:
- Spring 2010: SCIGR constituted and begins step 1.
  - Summer 2010: SCIGR completes steps 1 and 2.
  - Fall 2010: SCIGR completes step 3 at the start of the semester.
  - Fall/Spring 2010-11: Constituent committees develop and submit their proposals.
  - Summer 2011: SCIGR completes steps 5 and 6.
  - Fall 2011: Constituents ratify completed Internal Governance proposal.
  - Spring 2012: Final proposal submitted to Board of Visitors.
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