

Motion to Establish a Representative Task Force to Make Recommendations
Regarding Childcare at Radford University

(Introduced by the Campus Environment Committee)

Whereas, the Campus Environment Committee was given the charge to “formulate a recommendation for consideration by the full senate for a means to provide childcare for faculty and staff employed at Radford University”; and

Whereas, the 2008-2009 Childcare Survey established an overwhelming need for childcare at Radford University; and

Whereas, providing affordable childcare to all Radford University faculty, staff, and students would improve the morale and quality of life of employees of the university and its surrounding community members; and

Whereas, information based on recent faculty transitions within university suggests an increased likelihood to hire younger faculty members and accept an increasing number of graduate students with young families or potential to begin young families; and

Whereas, Radford University has in place an Early Childhood Education program to support a childcare facility; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The Campus Environment Committee hereby recommends that the Faculty Senate directs a representative Childcare Task Force be formed to examine the current barriers to establishing childcare at Radford University and possible solutions to said barriers. Issues to address should include but are not limited to the following: location/space, staffing, cost, target population, services to be offered, age groups to serve, days/hours of operation, and insurance/liability issues. The Campus Environment Committee recommends that the Childcare Task Force include representative members from Faculty Senate, staff, TR faculty, AP faculty, Graduate/Undergraduate students, and an administrator, with all representatives selected by their peers. The Campus Environment Committee recommends that the Childcare Task Force deliver to Faculty Senate by April 1, 2011 two to three possible models for providing childcare at Radford University with associated pros, cons, and costs.

RATIONALE: The lack of Childcare at Radford University is a university issue impacting faculty, staff, and students, all of whom should be represented on the Childcare Task Force. However, the Campus Environment Committee believes it is appropriate for a representative Childcare Task Force to use the floor of the Faculty Senate to begin the process of recommending and providing means for childcare at Radford University.

The Childcare Survey sent to all faculty, staff and students in the 2008-2009 academic year found not only overwhelming support for childcare at Radford University, but a very real and persistent plea for Radford University to provide childcare. Survey results included over 10 pages of written comments supporting childcare at Radford University, however a brief outline of the results is provided below.

- 297 respondents (47% students, 51% employees)
- 291 respondents stated they would approve of childcare on campus at Radford University
- 195 respondents stated they currently have children under age 13
- 152 respondents stated they would be interested in fall/spring **full-time** childcare for an infant (N = 67) or preschooler (N = 30)
- 65 respondents stated they would be interested in fall/spring **part-time** childcare for an infant (N = 30) or preschooler (N = 35)
- In response to the question: “If Radford University initiated a childcare program/facility, how likely would you be to change your current childcare to the RU childcare program (assuming comparable cost)?”
 - 107 stated Very Likely (data also included people without children)
 - 63 stated Likely
- 54 respondents indicated an anticipated need for childcare of an **infant** over the next three years
- 89 respondents indicated an anticipated need for childcare of a **preschooler** over the next three years
- 142 (49%) respondents stated they would volunteer their time at the childcare facility
- 175 (61%) respondents stated they would donate school supplies for the childcare program