

Motion on Faculty Running for Political Office (FSEC)

Motion:

The Faculty Senate recommends adding section 2.12 as part of section 2.0 FACULTY PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES to the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook on the rights and responsibilities of faculty members running for or holding public office.

2.12. Political Activities and Public Office

Radford University recognizes and encourages the exercise of the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activities on their own time. Should a faculty member campaign for or be elected to local, state, or federal office, it is necessary that the individual give assurances to the president that the individual's duties are being carried out fully and with no diminution of effectiveness caused by absences that might be required as a public official.

In conformance with the foregoing policy, the following guidelines are set forth:

- Faculty should, as a matter of courtesy, notify the president of their intention to seek public office or to accept an appointment to public office prior to the time such information is made public through notices of the press or other media.
- Should faculty members be elected or appointed to local, state, or national office, their first and primary responsibility is to their positions with the institution.
- Should faculty or members choose to seek public office, the campaigning must be done on their own time and without taking advantage of any resources or settings directly involving the institution.
- Professors who are candidates or who promote a public cause or support a candidate must ensure that their activities are not subsidized by public funds.
- Faculty members who receive compensation for political office should consult with Academic Affairs regarding any potential impact of the 133% rule on compensation.
- Faculty members who receive compensation and who will be away from campus should consult with Academic Affairs regarding limitations on outside compensation or one's Radford University salary on the basis of the section 3.2 Extra Employment of the *Radford University Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook*.

Rationale:

The *Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook* is silent on subject of faculty running for political office. The recommended handbook section recognizes the right of faculty members to run for and also to hold political office. Simultaneously, the proposed language emphasizes the importance of faculty members fulfilling their responsibilities to the university. The proposed section ensures that faculty members running for office will notify the President of the university. The first 4 bullets in this proposal are based on a section of the VCCS handbook which was drafted by a member of the attorney general's staff.