

MEMO

To: Radford University Faculty Senate

From: Interim Provost Joseph P. Scartelli
Faculty Senate President Kay K. Jordan

Date: October 25, 2010

Re: Curriculum Path Document and the IG Decision Matrix

Interim Provost Joe Scartelli and Faculty Senate President Kay K. Jordan met in May 2010 to discuss motions passed by the senate at its final meeting of the academic year. In particular, we discussed both an “Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal Path” and a “Graduate Curriculum Path” in relation to the Radford University Internal Governance Decision Matrix for Academic Affairs. The matrix is a directive from the interim provost to those whom he supervises regarding the origination and review of Academic Affairs proposals.

We noted that the proposals passed by the Faculty Senate included both curricular and governance changes although the titles “Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal Path” and “Graduate Curriculum Proposal Path” implied that they dealt exclusively with curriculum changes. These documents referred to “University-wide Curriculum Changes” including decisions to “Create, merge, or delete departments, programs, and colleges.” We agreed that these are in fact, governance changes.

Given that both the curriculum path documents and the IG Decision Matrix were both derived from the Radford University Internal Governance System and Committees and Councils (IG document), we concurred that these documents could co-exist. Recognizing that both documents were imperfect, we agreed to work together in 2010-2011 academic year to refine the documents and ultimately propose amendments to the IG document that would more clearly define the role of the faculty relative to governance decisions including the merger, deletion, or creation of departments and programs as well as the movement of a program or department from one college to another. Such changes affect the composition of personnel committees, promotion committees, and representation in the Faculty Senate. Additional amendments to the IG document would also recognize the primacy of the faculty in curricular decisions.