

Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting with Provost Stanton
Friday, June 5, 2009, 10:00am

The Faculty Senate Executive Council (FSEC) had a productive and positive conversation with Provost Stanton about a variety of issues, including: SACS Accreditation standards; the status of the Virginia state budget and its potential implications for Radford University's E&G allocations; the importance of communication and documenting decision making processes with written reports from constituents and administrators, outlining their positions and rationales; academic program review; and plans for moving forward in the coming academic year. The FSEC and Provost Stanton discussed at length their differing views as to what constituted appropriate procedural standards for making academic affairs decisions (particularly pertaining to curriculum). Members of the FSEC requested that the Provost revisit certain decision pertaining to Anthropology and Geography, which he declined to do at this meeting (see June 17 meeting report).

As a result of these discussions, the following conclusions were reached:

1. The Provost and FSEC agree that it is essential to develop a document outlining the processes to be followed not only for curricular change, but also for restructuring decisions at the university. Processes must provide for the appropriate lines of communication, documented input, and documented feedback. The FSEC committed to work on the development of these processes.
2. The Provost and the FSEC remains committed to the revision of the internal governance system to better reflect the needs of Radford University. The FSEC has committed to discussing how this may best occur.
3. Based on the conversations at this meeting, it is clear that the Provost and FSEC share a desire for faculty involvement in planning the academic affairs budget. While motivated by the potential for additional budget shortfalls, the value lies in having a regularized means by which faculty can weigh in on academic affairs budget decisions and priorities.
4. In response to an inquiry from the FSEC, the Provost indicated that programs with suspended enrollments (Anthropology and Geography) may develop and submit through established curriculum pathways proposals to modify their curricula, which could result in lifting suspensions on enrollment. The Provost indicated that he has met with representatives from these departments. As such, these programs are not "eliminated."
5. Upon request from the FSEC, the Provost agreed that (unless mandated by an unavoidable, immediate budget exigency) changes in academic affairs structures and content will not be undertaken unless pursuant to a path that is clearly established, transparent, and provides for appropriate forms of feedback.
6. Following a discussion of program review, the Provost agreed to consider recommendations from the FSEC regarding the composition of the Academic Program Review Committee, and appointment of members thereof.

Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting with President Kyle and Provost Stanton
Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 11:00am

The Faculty Senate Executive Council (FSEC) met with President Kyle and Provost Stanton for follow-up discussions of issues that were raised in previous meetings. Discussion ranged across a variety of issues of interest to faculty, with a particular focus on budgeting and on decisions stemming from the expedited program review process. Additional items of interest included:

1. The President expressed concern about inaccurate information being conveyed in the media. The President also expressed an interest in developing and promoting the use of internal channels of communication by which individuals can pose questions, receive answers, and participate in the governance process.
2. After further consideration (of issues raised at the June 5 FSEC meeting with the Provost), the Provost announced that five newly admitted students indicated plans to major in anthropology, and they will be permitted to pursue the major. Anthropology faculty want to maintain the degree and are working to do so; revisions to the major will not result in a science-based anthropology degree, because there are insufficient resources to do so.
3. One newly admitted student indicated plans to major in geography, and will be permitted to pursue the major. The department is in the process of restructuring their curriculum.
4. Provost Stanton plans to post last year's budget reversion principles, and solicit input on how they should be modified to respond to potential upcoming budget reversions.
5. Provost Stanton indicated that the survey of internal governance committees was nearing completion.
6. President Kyle asked that the FSEC provide input on a date for a faculty dinner to be held at the Dedmon Center in the fall semester.

Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting with President Kyle
Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 11:00am

The Faculty Senate Executive Council (FSEC) had a productive conversation with President Kyle about a variety of issues, including: Planning for the coming year, particularly in addressing areas of concern that arose over the past academic year; the reform of internal governance; the need for an individual to serve as a point-person for internal governance, and the importance of ensuring transparency in the activities of internal governance committees; the importance of regular meetings of the Provost and President with the FSEC; and the development of the 7-17 strategic plan. In the course of this conversation, the FSEC stressed that recent concerns have not simply been matters of communication, but rather have been matters of process. The FSEC stressed that not only is it important to examine and revise the internal governance system, but more importantly to make ensure that all internal governance systems are carefully implemented and followed. The meeting was positively received by all involved and established a positive tone for a collegial working relationship.