

Faculty Senate Executive Council
Meeting with Provost Stanton
Monday, July 13, 2009, 10:30am

The Faculty Senate Executive Council's (FSEC) meeting with the Provost primarily focused on two issues: The development of a document to outline the path for academic affairs proposals and decisions to ensure transparency and participation in decision making processes; and the current budget situation facing the Commonwealth and Radford University.

The FSEC and Provost reached consensus on several points regarding the development of an academic affairs proposal path document. Such a document can be developed as a memorandum of understanding to guide decisions in the coming year, and should include the following principles: constituencies impacted by decisions (including the Faculty Senate), whether curricular or organizational, should be consulted and afforded the opportunity to participate in those decisions; all communications about decisions, at all levels, should be made in writing, with rationales for those decisions; communications should be archived on a regularly updated webpage; and an appeals process should be included. A draft document will be developed to reflect these principles. Work on the revision of internal governance, generally, will inform the creation of an institutionalized structure as part of a new internal governance document.

As required by the Commonwealth, Radford University will submit a budget reversion plan by the July 22 deadline. The Provost has developed a webpage containing budget information and the suggestions he has received from the online submission form. He will send a message to the academic community soon notifying them of the new webpage. The potential budget reversion is substantial and will impact the multiple units of the university, as all state agencies (including Radford University) were instructed to develop 5%, 10%, and 15% E&G fund reversion scenarios. It is unavoidable that academic affairs will face cuts (academic affairs comprises 72% of the university budget). The Provost noted that his goal is to maximize the protection of instruction, as the mission of the university. As work continues on budget-related matters, the Provost and FSEC share the desire for strong collaboration and transparency with faculty.