

Vice-President's Report, RU Faculty Senate, November 5, 2009

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I want to take this opportunity today to talk a little bit about the budget and also some of the very important matters, that we, as the Faculty Senate will deal with during this academic year.

The Budget

Last week, the Resource Allocation Committee and the University Planning and Budget Committee met with Richard Alvarez and President Kyle. Joe Wirgau was re-elected chair of UPBAC and I was elected as Secretary. The RU administration is working with the appropriate Internal Governance Committees to include faculty in the budgetary process. Richard Alvarez will submit a budget to the Board of Visitors for its approval next week. Please note that this budget relies in part on stimulus monies. Radford University has prepared an application for stimulus money, but the state is not yet ready to receive and review such applications. President Kyle negotiated with officials in Richmond last year to allow RU to carry some funds forward into the current fiscal year. We are currently using some of those funds, which are actually earmarked for other specific purposes to tide us over until we receive stimulus money. Alvarez assured all committee members that President Kyle had directed him to make supporting the university's academic mission the highest budgeting priority. As many of you may recall, an Academic Leadership Team meeting was held in October. We were informed at that time that the proposed budget was structured such that no tenured, tenure-track, special purpose, or full-time temporary faculty

would be cut during the next two years provided that Richmond did not require additional budget reversions. Additionally, we were assured that funds would be available for adjuncts if they were absolutely necessary to a department's mission.

Moving Forward—Senate Priorities

Already this year, the Senate has taken some important steps to enhance the role of faculty in shared governance at Radford University. We have a task force working to determine if the Internal Governance system requires revision and to make a recommendation on how this might be accomplished. If faculty members desire a stronger role in determining the curriculum and in shaping the university budget, they can negotiate this as part of the IG revision process. The Governance Committee is currently reviewing a matrix that explains the proper procedure for curricular and other changes at RU. At a recent retreat the Board of Visitors expressed an interest in reviewing the RU 7-17 Strategic plan. Faculty members should certainly play an important role in this process.

The letters of appointment to Internal Governance committees sent to members of the RU community this year included several new stipulations. All committees are expected to keep minutes of their meetings and to send these minutes to Senate secretary Sid Smith for posting on the Faculty Senate webpage. The goal is to increase transparency in governance at our university.

At the beginning of each academic year, the Faculty Senate Executive Council solicits input from faculty regarding issues that need to be addressed. Then the Executive Council formulates objectives for each of the Senate

committees. Additionally, these committees may also develop their own initiatives. The full Senate then receives the reports, motions, and recommendations from these committees. As each committee presents its report today, I have asked Sid Smith to project the appropriate committee objectives. Each one of us is probably familiar with the objectives of the committee on which we serve, but not of the objectives of the other committees.

I believe that this fall the RU Faculty Senate has already established a plan for moving forward and enhancing the role of the faculty as a whole in university governance.