

American Association of University Professors Radford University Chapter

8 July 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: Rector Archer and Members of the Board of Visitors, Radford University

From: The Radford University Chapter, AAUP

Dear Rector Archer and Members of the Board of Visitors,

The Radford University Chapter of the AAUP has received the attached letter from Greg Scholtz who represents the American Association of University Professors, headquartered in Washington, DC. Please read his letter because it assesses Radford University's current position in relation to nationally accepted principles of academic integrity, governance, and proper procedures during a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

You may be aware that Radford University is a member of the American Association of Colleges and Universities that has for many years endorsed the governance principles formulated by the American Association of University Professors in collaboration with learned societies and organizations representing college and university governing boards in the United States.

As Greg Scholtz, Director, Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance of the national AAUP, points out in the attached letter, the Board's June 12 resolution arbitrarily suspends key sections of the Faculty Handbook and by granting inordinate powers to the university President violates national standards of good governance. This is an embarrassment to Radford University, its faculty, staff, and administrators.

Needless, to say, over its long history, the AAUP has dealt with numerous legal and civil cases of fiscal exigency or extraordinary circumstances and has formulated documents to help institutions deal with such circumstances. Greg Scholtz gives the example of Hurricane Katrina and the many educational institutions in New Orleans that had to deal with the disaster. Yet most of them managed, with the help of the AAUP, to deal with those circumstances according to nationally accepted principles and rules designed to address such events. The AAUP has, of course, also produced documents to guide institutions in the face of the COVID-19 disaster.

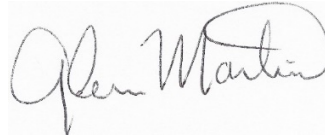
Both the Radford University Board of Visitors and President Hemphill are in violation of these nationally accepted procedures as well as the internal principles of its Faculty Handbook and the Faculty Senate Constitution and bylaws.

National embarrassment, the potential of bad press for RU as well as President Hemphill, are serious matters. On behalf of the RU faculty, as well as national principles of good governance, we are asking the Board of Visitors to rescind their suspension of sections of the Faculty Handbook. Allow genuine faculty participation in facing this crisis rather than resorting to President Hemphill's unilateral and coercive approach.

Rector Archer and Members of the Board of Visitors, Radford University

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Thank you so much for considering our request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glen Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glen" and last name "Martin" clearly distinguishable.

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To: Rector Bob Archer bob.archer@blueridgebeverage.com

cc:

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