

Board of Visitors

February 6-8, 2019

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Richard Bland College
of WILLIAM & MARY

**REPORT OF THE RBC FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE
FEBRUARY 2019**

Dr. Matthew Smith

W&M Board of Visitors, RBC Faculty Representative

Faculty Assembly - Committee Updates

Academic Standards and Appeals Committee (Prof. Eric Earnhardt, Chair)

- Review of standards regarding academic probation and suspension in order to recommend changes based on comparison with policies at peer institutions, institutional research, federal financial aid policies, and admissions.
- Passed a motion to forward to Faculty Assembly to change the College Catalog policy barring credits earned while under suspension from RBC or other institutions from being accepted by RBC (passed in Faculty Assembly).
- Worked to finalize language clarifying the role and structure of a proposed "Online Education Subcommittee" to be included in the *Procedures and Guidelines for Online Education*.
- Passed a motion to forward to Faculty Assembly regarding new recommendations for academic probation and suspension standards based on committee discussions and research (motion passed in Faculty Assembly with slight alteration).
- Passed a motion recommending the inclusion of the "Online Education Subcommittee" in the *Procedures and Guidelines for Online Education* (motion discussed in Faculty Assembly: suggestion of the formation a new faculty committee, rather than a subcommittee, on Online Education was deemed most appropriate).
- New language for Faculty Handbook adding an Online Education Committee as a College Committee (not a subcommittee of Academic Standards & Appeals) being drafted.
- Discussion of draft language for Faculty Handbook adding an Online Education Committee as a College Committee

Faculty Affairs Committee (Prof. Dan Franke, Chair)

- Review of current committee structure as outlined in faculty handbook
- Review of current academic structure (provost, director of academics, department chairs) to make recommendation to Faculty Assembly
- Review of multi-year contracts, promotion, and professional development plans
- Items in progress to be presented to the Faculty Assembly this semester:
 - Revisions to faculty handbook (including modifications to faculty representation on faculty committees)
 - Proposal for faculty non-academic leave, to include parental leave benefits

Faculty Committee for Student-Athlete Success (Prof. Celia Brockway, Chair)

- Planning a spring orientation for student-athletes and coaches, including topics such as professionalism, mid-term grade-check process, and student-athlete excused absence letter updates
- Working to solidify study hall requirements for student-athletes
- Addressing the issue of international student-athlete language resources

Instructional Programs and Curriculum Committee (Prof. Dave Morgan, Chair)

- Approved a substantial revision to ENGL 101/102 and a new course, ENGL 215 Introduction to Literary Study (Approved by Faculty Assembly)
- Simplified the requirements for several Philosophy courses by removing a MATH prerequisite (Approved by Faculty Assembly)
- Changed the course descriptions of the Macroeconomics and Microeconomics courses to eliminate confusion about the sequence (Approved by Faculty Assembly)
- Items in progress to be presented to the Faculty Assembly this semester:
 - A revision of the New Course Proposal form
 - A revision of the standard RBC syllabus template

Faculty Assembly

Top Priorities Identified for 2019

- Improved communication between faculty and administration/staff
- QEP implementation
- Faculty professional development

Faculty Updates, Accolades, Honors, and Distinctions

Thom Addington (English Instructor)

Mr. Addington presented a Writing across the Curriculum workshop during Faculty Development week in January.

Professor Tiffany Birdsong (Psychology) and Sue Moss (Librarian)

Presented a workshop on the Common Read @ RBC pilot – “Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County” Kristen Green, who will be visiting campus to give a talk and to have lunch with select members of the campus community.

Professor Celia Brockway (Music; Honors and Promise Scholars)

In October, Prof. Brockway hosted a webinar through Navitas, entitled “Reflective practice and resilience: The key to improving student engagement.”

On November 30, the Promise Scholars spent the day at William & Mary. They embarked on a campus tour, met with faculty in their area of study, ate in the cafeteria, and attended the Academic Festival.

Prof. Brockway is in the midst of working on MOUs for Honors transfer with Shenandoah University, University of Mary Washington, James Madison University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. She also presented a workshop on “Teaching Honors” during Faculty Development in January.

On November 12 and 14, 2018, the Honors Program partnered with the RBC Global Student Success Program to host several International Education Week events.

Professor Eric Earnhardt (English) and Professor Dave Morgan (Physics & Astronomy)

Profs. Earnhardt and Morgan hosted a workshop during Faculty Development in January on the how to use the VALUE rubric to score critical thinking artifacts. This training session represents an important step in the implementation of the College’s QEP, IMPACT (Improving Mental Power and Critical Thinking)

Jamia Hines (Communications Instructor)

Ms. Hines won the RBC Champion of Student Success Award in December 2018. She has also just been elected as the new adjunct faculty representative to the Faculty Assembly for the Department of Language and Humanities.

Professor Jena Morrison (Psychology and Sociology)

The 4th annual Balance & Breathe Bash was held just prior to exam week in December and proved to be another tremendous success. Due to its popularity, it will replace the Big Bland Bash that has been held traditionally by Student Life in the Spring Semester. Effective Spring 2019, the organization of the Balance & Breathe Bash will officially migrate from Academics (Dr. Morrison) to Student Life (Stephen Christian and Jamie Camp), and, moving forward, it will be held the week before final exams in both Fall and Spring semesters.

Professor David Morgan (Physics & Astronomy)

A paper by Dr. David Morgan, Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy, was published in the December 2018 issue of *The Physics Teacher*, a peer-reviewed publication of the American Association of Physics Teachers. The paper, titled "Momentum conservation before Newton," describes several writing and reasoning activities for introductory physics students.

Professor Dan Zelinski (Philosophy & Religion)

An article co-authored by Prof. Zelinski, "Tom Petty Didn't Really Need to Know," is currently scheduled for publication in *Tom Petty and Philosophy*, which is part of Open Court's Philosophy and Popular Culture series.

Winter 2019 Writer's Retreat for William & Mary Faculty

For the first time, faculty members from Richard Bland College were invited to participate in the W&M Winter Writer's Retreat, which was held in the Swem Library January 7-11, 2019. Three RBC faculty members applied and were accepted for participation. Congratulations to these three outstanding scholars!

- Dr. Eric Earnhardt, Assistant Professor of English
- Dr. Dan Franke, Assistant Professor of History
- Dr. Alice Henton, Assistant Professor of English

Presentation Overview

Digital Literacies

This portion of the presentation, given by Prof. Alice Henton and her students, will provide a brief introduction to RBC's English 299, "Digital Literacies." In the course, students explore what it means to be a reader and writer in the 21st century, and how to make persuasive arguments in digital spaces, through various genres of digital literacy, including: blogging, online resumes, social media profiles, websites, wikis, forums and other platforms. The presentation will feature selections of student-created content from the course blog in order to showcase how RBC students have adapted and applied their own formidable digital skills.

The Scriyb Training Management System

The meeting will also feature a short presentation from Mr. Christopher Etesse on Scriyb. The Scriyb Training Management System (TMS) is designed to address the challenges of training in today's world. How do you measure the readiness of your workforce and then accelerate it? This is especially mission critical as it relates to technology, but as every job leverages technology it applies across academic and corporate certifications. The Scriyb platform is a unique training environment consisting of an AI-enhanced Coaching Cloud combined with a next-gen Cyber Range. A key to training success is always knowing the ability levels within your organization. Mr. Etesse has provided a shaping hand to the technological evolution within higher education, developing the first LMS at Thompson Publishing (now Cengage) called World Class Syllabus (acquired by Pearson) and as one of the founding employees (#20) at Blackboard, where he helped architect some of their most successful web-based products and ran the International Services business over an eight-year tour.

Presenter Bios

Professor Alice Henton (English)

Alice Henton received her B.A. in English and history at the University of California, Davis, in 2005. She received her Ph.D. in English at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2014. Her dissertation, "Spectral Evidences of an Invisible World: Remapping the Puritan Supernatural," examines Puritan influences on early and nineteenth-century American fiction. She has published on topics ranging from Early American poetry to digital game studies.

Catherine Ranese

Ms. Ranese is an Honors Student and a Promise Scholar. She was a student in Prof. Henton's ENGL 299 Digital Literacies course in Fall 2018 and will be discussing her experiences in that course at the meeting.

Mr. Christopher Etesse

Prior to joining Scriyb, Mr. Christopher Etesse, as CEO, completed a 3-year restructuring of FlatWorld Inc. He relocated the former freemium publisher from upstate New York to Washington, DC, rebuilt the team, and pivoted the company into a new opportunity called competency-based learning. Earlier in his career, Chris served in leadership positions that included CEO of Kadoo, a cloud based consumer internet play allowing users to truly control their stuff online (applications, social and content), the Chief Technology Officer at Presidium, an innovator in higher education strategic enrollment management, financial aid and student services, that was later acquired by Blackboard (becoming Blackboard Student Services), where he became CTO and SVP of Strategic Accounts.

Working to advance the state of technology in education, Chris has helped draft a number of open software standards, is named on numerous patents, and has served on the advisory board of the IMS Global Learning Consortium. He also currently serves on the University of Kentucky, College of Engineering, Dean's Advisory Council, and has previously served on the Board of Trustees for Loudoun Country Day School. With 18 years of leadership in driving business model and product innovations for the education market, Chris brings a unique perspective on what the next-gen virtual educational landscape will look like, and how learning can be improved with the cloud, AI, social, and peer-to-peer learning, but that the 'teacher and the student' are still at the heart of the learning experience.