



**Richard Bland College**  
*of WILLIAM & MARY*

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

**Dr. Tiffany Birdsong**

W&M Board of Visitors, RBC Faculty Representative

**Faculty Committee Updates**

The faculty committees have been actively engaged and moving forward with many important initiatives.

**Academic Standards and Appeals Committee (Professor Alice Henton, Chair)**

- Evaluating policies for the Provisional Admissions program
- Discussions about Dual Enrollment, including review of draft *Dual Enrollment Policy Manual*

**Faculty Affairs Committee (Professor Dan Franke, Chair)**

- Reviewing the role of student membership on Faculty Committees
- Ongoing evaluation and revisions to the Faculty Handbook

**Instructional Programs and Curriculum Committee (Professor Vanessa Stout, Chair)**

- Actively working on ensuring alignment with degree requirements of area colleges and universities, as well as national curriculum trends
- Continual evaluation of degree requirements and curricula in support of the College's Strategic Plan

**Online Education Committee (Professor Jena Morrison, Chair)**

- Developing repository for online education resources for faculty
- Ongoing observation of all online courses to ensure application of best practices

## **Faculty Support of Student Engagement**

Faculty sponsorship of student led clubs and organizations is at an all-time high, with eleven faculty members serving as club sponsors. Faculty have taken a special interest in promoting clubs and events that have an academic emphasis including, the Business/Economics Club, History Club, Psychology Club, Science Club, and the newly established RBC Debate Team. Highlights of faculty support of student engagement and ongoing professional development include:

### **RBC Debate Team, Professor Dan Franke (Faculty Sponsor; History)**

Professor Franke will accompany the RBC Debate Team to their first tournament on October 27. The debate will take place at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) where they will face teams from colleges across the country including, but not limited to, Cornell University, Duke University, George Mason University, and Hofstra University. The students have prepared for months and are looking forward to learning, competing, and representing Richard Bland College.

### **Professor Tiffany Birdsong (Psychology)**

Professor Birdsong has initiated a new research project looking at the role of first-generation faculty as a tool to increase retention and persistence among first-generation college students. Results of this project may inform future programming at RBC including forging connections between students and professors who are the first in their family to attend college.

### **Professor Rachel Finney (Spanish)**

Professor Finney will be attending the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Washington, DC, November 22-24.

### **Alexandra Youmans (English)**

Professor Youmans is attending the National Council of Teachers of English conference in Baltimore, MD, November 21-24.