

# LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University  
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, December 14, 2021  
2:00 p.m.

**Presiding:** Donald Scott

**Members of the Board in Attendance:**

Robert Barber  
Holly Bracknell  
John Craig  
Linda Dolny  
Raymond Hunt  
Marcia Hydrick  
Cathy Lee  
Donald Lloyd  
Peggy Makins  
Terry Pruitt  
Robert Sabalis  
James Shubert  
DeWitt Stone  
Angela Strickland  
Anne Walker

**Others in Attendance:** President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Scott Jones, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Stacie Bowie, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Todd Gambill, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Mike Worley, Vice President for University Advancement; Boyd Yarbrough, Vice President for Student Affairs; Adam Taylor, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Crystal Rookard, Vice President and General Counsel; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics; Megan Price, Assistant Vice President of University Relations and Publications; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Greg Allen, Lander University Police Chief; Tracy Clifton, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator; Abdallah Haddad, Chief Information and Technology Officer; and London Thomas, Director of Human Resources.

**Guests:** Lindsey Hodges, of the Index-Journal.

Chair Donald Scott called the meeting to order.

Adam Taylor stated for the record that appropriate publicity had been disseminated in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, and that the meeting is in compliance with that Act.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Anne Walker motioned to approve the September 14, 2021 board meeting minutes; seconded by Linda Dolny. The board meeting minutes from September 14, 2021 were approved by unanimous vote.

**II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The president shared the following updates with board members:

**Retreat and Strategic Planning:** The beginning of the meeting was devoted to a Board of Trustees retreat to discuss updates and priorities related to strategic planning for Lander University, especially strategic initiatives related to continued enrollment growth. The president thanked trustees for a robust discussion about the future of Lander University and how their input at the retreat helped lay the groundwork for the next iteration of Lander University’s strategic plan. He concluded by stating he looked forward to continuing that discussion in future meetings of the Board of Trustees.

During the board meeting, the president distributed handouts related to focus areas and outcomes of the current strategic plan, and requested that trustees review them for future discussions on a new strategic plan. Documents included a summary of the strategic plans for 48 of Lander University’s peer institutions.

**Future Guests:** The president mentioned that he is considering inviting state legislators to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees to contribute to the board’s discussion relative to Lander University’s strategic plan. The president commented that it would be beneficial to have the input of members of the South Carolina General Assembly, including their observations regarding higher education throughout South Carolina.

**Signs:** The president distributed examples of updated outdoor signage under consideration for use to identify Lander University’s facilities. The president stressed the importance of having consistent signage across campus that adheres to Lander University’s marketing and branding guidelines.

**Enrollment Growth and Pricing:** The president also distributed documents showing Lander University’s enrollment growth over five years, as well as a worksheet on Lander University’s tuition and fees.

**COVID-19:** As COVID-19 has presented significant mental health challenges for Lander University students, the president is considering an increase in the Health and Counseling fee, which would be offset by a decrease in the Educational and Technology fee.

**Space:** The president stressed that lack of space on Lander University’s core campus continues to be a concern for the university. Administration is looking at options that would relocate staff who do not have regular interaction with students. The space currently occupied by these staff members could be converted into academic space.

**Dr. Stacie Bowie:** The president announced that Dr. Stacie Bowie, vice president for finance and administration, will be leaving Lander University to serve as vice president for finance at another institution in West Palm Beach, Florida. The president thanked Dr. Bowie for her service to Lander University.

### III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Finance, Facilities and Audit / Governmental Relations and Strategic Initiatives

Donald Lloyd shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Finance, Facilities and Audit, and Governmental Relations and Strategic Initiatives Committee reports. The committee brought forward the following action items:

##### 1. **Presentation of June 30, 2021 Financial Audit and Required Communication**

Donald Lloyd recognized Lois Eustace, of Clark Eustace Wagner, PA, who gave the Board of Trustees the results of the June 30, 2021 Financial Audit. This audit was completed with an unmodified opinion, or “clean audit.”

The board approved the results of the audit report by unanimous vote.

**B. Academic Affairs**

Robert Barber shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Academic Affairs Committee report. The committee brought forward the following action items:

**1. Bachelor of Science in Medical Biology**

This new program is designed to offer students planning to attend a medical school after Lander University an option to complete the requirements for the medical school as part of their degree. By having a specific degree program separate from the traditional biology program, students will take the courses required by medical schools in place of the core courses in the traditional biology program, while leaving room for students to take part in internships and medically related certifications as part of their coursework.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**2. Master of Science in Exercise Science**

This new program will serve nontraditional students in South Carolina who would like to advance their careers. The program will be offered in an online format, where students can choose from three concentrations: sports performance and rehabilitation, clinical exercise physiology, and health and wellness. The demand for strength and conditioning trainers, exercise physiologists, and health and wellness specialists continues to grow nationwide, and employers in Lander University's region have an immediate need for employees with the skills that will be developed through this degree.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**3. Faculty Handbook Revisions**

The faculty wish to add the Faculty Senate parliamentarian to the Faculty Senate Agenda Committee. The following language would make those changes:

- a. Change the section of the Faculty Handbook (Chapter II C, Agenda Committee) that currently reads, "The Agenda Committee will consist of the Faculty Senate chair, chair-elect, and secretary" to read instead, "The Agenda Committee will consist of the Faculty Senate chair, chair-elect, secretary, and parliamentarian."
- b. Change the section of the Faculty Handbook (Chapter II B, Section 1: Officers) that currently reads, "The parliamentarian shall advise the chair on all matters of procedure at the meeting according to the latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" to instead read, "The parliamentarian shall serve on the agenda committee and advise the chair on all matters of procedure at the meeting according to the latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised."

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**C. Enrollment and Access Management**

Holly Bracknell shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Enrollment and Access Management Committee reports. Holly Bracknell also shared with the board that enrollment for the Spring 2022 semester is up 12.1 percent over enrollment numbers from Spring 2021.

**D. Institutional Advancement**

John Craig shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Institutional Advancement Committee report.

**E. Policy**

Robert Sabalis shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Policy Committee report. The committee brought forward the following action items:

**1. Board Conflict of Interest**

This action item involves LP1.5 (Board of Trustee Conflict of Interest), which serves to enhance public confidence in the board on matters related to actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**2. External Grant Approval**

This action item would revise LP3.14 (External Grant Approval) to (1) include student-proposed grant requests and (2) require final approval from a smaller external grant approval team instead of the president's cabinet.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**F. Student Affairs / Intercollegiate Athletics**

Raymond Hunt shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Student Affairs and Intercollegiate Athletics Committee reports.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Proposed Bylaws of the Lander University Board of Trustees**

Robert Sabalis made the motion to approve the proposed revision of the bylaws of the Lander University Board of Trustees; seconded by Raymond Hunt.

Discussion followed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**B. Faculty Senate: Dr. Daniel Harrison**

Daniel Harrison shared updates from the Faculty Senate in absentia. Board members were provided with a written report.

**C. Staff Senate: Anissa Lawrence**

Anissa Lawrence shared updates from the Staff Senate in absentia. Board members were provided with a written report.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Linda Dolny to adjourn the meeting; seconded by John Craig.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.