

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, May 2, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Don Scott

Members of the Board in Attendance:

Robert Barber
Holly Bracknell
Linda Dolny
John Craig
Ray Hunt
Marcia Hydrick
Catherine Lee
Don Lloyd
Peggy Makins
Terry Pruitt
Robert Sabalis
Jim Shubert
Angela Strickland
Anne Walker

Absent: DeWitt Stone

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Jim Colbert, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Todd Gambill, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Boyd Yarbrough, Vice President for Student Affairs; Joe Greenthal, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Adam Taylor, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Crystal Rookard, Vice President and General Counsel; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Greg Allen, Lander University Police Chief; Abdallah Haddad, Chief Information and Technology Officer; London Thomas, Director of Human Resources; and Sadie Erwin, Executive Assistant to the President.

Guests: Lindsey Hodges, of the Index-Journal; Dr. Sarah Hunt-Barron, Dean of the College of Education; Deb Nygro, Assistant Director of University Relations; Dr. John Moore, Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Graham Duncan, Chair of the Staff Senate; and Dr. Emily Prince, Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate.

Chair 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 was in compliance with that Act.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Walker motioned to approve the March 14, 2023 board meeting minutes; seconded by Bob Sabalis.

The board meeting minutes from March 14, 2023 were approved by unanimous vote.

II. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Scott reminded trustees representing congressional districts that they will be up for re-election in 2024, and that the application process would begin in the fall of 2023.

III. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Richard Cosentino gave the following updates to the Board of Trustees:

Strategic Plan: The president provided the Board of Trustees with an updated draft of Lander University’s strategic plan. This new draft took into consideration the feedback President Cosentino received from board members, faculty, and staff. This revised draft of the strategic plan was reviewed by members of Lander’s faculty and staff, the Faculty Senate, and the Staff Senate, and will continue to be reviewed by administration and the Board of Trustees. A final version will be considered at a future meeting.

Executive Searches: The president shared with board members that the University is conducting searches for the next Dean of the College of Science and Math, Vice President for University Advancement, and Inaugural Director for the South Carolina Institute for the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses. President Cosentino reported that he has interviewed several candidates for these positions.

Corporate Partnerships: The president shared that Lander University was finalizing significant corporate partnerships with major corporations in South Carolina. These partnerships allow the employees of corporate partners to receive a discount on Lander tuition so they can earn their baccalaureate or master’s degree at Lander University.

Budget: The president asked Adam Taylor to share updates on the state budget for FY 2023-24. Since the last board meeting, the budget was adopted by the House of Representatives. Mr. Taylor shared the Senate Finance Committee’s recommendations for Lander:

Senate Finance Committee Recommendations

Recurring	
Lander Base Budget	\$15,459,275
Tuition Mitigation and Inflationary Costs	\$3,350,000
Capital Requests	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$3,500,000
Nursing Building	\$4,000,000
Total New Funds:	\$10,850,000
Total Funding (Base + New):	\$26,309,275

Mr. Taylor shared that the Conference Committee between the two chambers would meet at some point in May and June to resolve the differences in budget proposals between the two chambers.

Launch into College Program: The president asked Dr. Sarah Hunt-Barron to share that Lander University has received a grant from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in the amount of \$483,000 to establish a “Launch into College” program. This allows college-bound students in South Carolina to live and study at Lander University over the summer of 2023, while taking ENGL 101 or 102, and MATH 121. These students will receive free housing, coursework, and textbooks. Dr. Hunt-Barron shared that studies show students who perform well in these core academic courses are more likely to graduate from college. The program will serve a total of 90 students.

Higher Education Day: The president asked Adam Taylor and Dr. Amanda Darden to give a report to the Board of Trustees on Higher Education Day at the South Carolina State House. A select group of students visited with legislators on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, to thank them for their support of Lander University. One student, Alayna Harding, was invited to give a speech during a press conference on the steps of the State House, representing the four-year institutions. The students also had the privilege of meeting with South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs

Anne Walker shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Academic Affairs Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

B. Enrollment and Access Management / Retention

Holly Bracknell shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Enrollment and Access Management Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

C. Finance, Facilities, and Audit / Governmental and Strategic Initiatives

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

1. **FY 2023-24 Housing Rate Proposal**

This proposal requests an average increase of 3.46% to offset inflationary factors and adjust for updated amenities. Residence halls will also receive Wi-Fi upgrades and interior improvements, including flooring, bathroom, and furniture updates this summer.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. **FY 2023-24 Food Service Rate Proposal**

This proposal restructures meal plans to simplify options for students. The University's two main meal plans for resident students will be priced at \$2,550 per semester, with non-resident meal plans set at \$150 per semester. The proposal also provides meal exchange options that allow up to 20 meal swipes a semester to be used at the retail dining operations around campus.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. **FY 2023-24 Course, Program, and Other Fees Proposal**

This proposal adjusts courses with new prefixes, and increases the graduation fee due to an increased cost in regalia. No new course fees were presented for approval.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

D. Institutional Advancement

John Craig shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Institutional Advancement Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

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. **Trustee Emeritus/Emerita Policy - 4 Year Review**
2. **President Emeritus/Emerita Policy - 4 Year Review**
3. **Faculty Emeritus/Emerita Policy - 4 Year Review**
4. **Staff Emeritus/Emerita Policy - 4 Year Review**

These policies were due for review as part of the Board of Trustees' four-year cycle of policy review. Board members were provided with updated versions of these policies in the Policy Committee report.

The committee recommended that these be adopted as a package. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

F. Student Affairs / Intercollegiate Athletics

Ray Hunt shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Student Affairs / Intercollegiate Athletics Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Report of Nominating Committee

Chair Scott reminded board members that, in the meeting on March 14, 2023, he appointed Ray Hunt, Marcia Hydrick, and Linda Dolny to the Nominating Committee, pursuant to Rule 4.1 of the Bylaws of the Lander University Board of Trustees. Chair Scott recognized Ray Hunt to give a report from the committee.

The committee nominated Don Scott to serve as Chair, Don Lloyd as Vice Chair, and Peggy Makins as Secretary, for terms of office beginning July 1, 2023, until June 30, 2025.

Bob Sabalis moved to close nominations; seconded by Anne Walker.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Election of Board Officers

Robert Sabalis moved to elect the Nominating Committee's nominees to their respective offices, for terms beginning July 1, 2023, until June 30, 2025; seconded by Jim Shubert.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. Faculty Senate

A report from the Faculty Senate was provided to the Board of Trustees by Dr. John Moore, Chair of the Faculty Senate.

D. Staff Senate

A report from the Staff Senate was provided to the Board of Trustees by Graham Duncan, Chair of the Staff Senate.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Don Lloyd to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bob Sabalis.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.