

**LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

F. Mitchell Johnson Board Room  
Lander University  
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, May 12, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

**Presiding:** Linda Dolny

**Members of the Board in Attendance:**

**Via Video and Audio Call:**

Angela Strickland  
Anne Walker  
Cary Corbitt  
Cathy Lee  
DeWitt Stone  
Don Lloyd  
Don Scott  
Robert Sabalis  
Holly Bracknell  
Jack Lawrence  
John Craig  
Marcia Hydrick  
Ray Hunt  
Robert Barber  
Peggy Makins

**Absent:**

Maurice Holloway

**Others in Attendance:** President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Scott Jones, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Adam Taylor, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Stacie Bowie, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Megan Price, Assistant Vice President of University Relations and Publications.

**Attended Via Video and Audio Call:** Todd Gambill, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Boyd Yarbrough, Vice President for Student Affairs; Crystal Rookard, Vice President and General Counsel; Mike Worley, Vice President for University Advancement; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics.

Linda Dolny called the meeting to order and stated for the record that appropriate publicity in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act had been disseminated and that this meeting is in compliance with that Act.

**Dates to Remember:**

Saturday, August 28 7:00 p.m. – The Drop

Monday, September 14, 4:00 p.m. – State of the University

Tuesday, September 15, 10:30 a.m. – September Board Meeting

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Cary Corbitt motioned to approve the March 2020 board meeting minutes; seconded by Don Lloyd. The March minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The President welcomed board members to the meeting from their remote locations.

In response to Covid-19 and the governor’s directions, face-to-face instruction was suspended at 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2020. Beginning March 16, 2020 Lander University transferred to online instruction for undergraduate and graduate students until further notice. The focus last year on creating a robust online environment prepared Lander instructors for this occurrence. Lander faculty had been trained prior to the pandemic for online instruction and adapted to this challenge very well. Lander students have performed well despite the inevitable challenges.

It is essential that Lander University honor its spring Class of 2020 graduates are honored. Because of ambiguity and uncertainty surrounding the upcoming summer and social distancing requirements, and to ensure the safety of students, their families, and employees, Lander will postpone the scheduled spring commencement to December 2020. This commencement ceremony will be separate from the Fall Class of 2020 commencement ceremony. In the meantime, to honor spring Class of 2020 graduates on their original commencement date, Lander purchased a two-page ad in the Index Journal that lists all of the candidates for degrees. At 11:00 a.m. on May 13, 2020, the carillon of Laura Lander Hall will ring in honor of Commencement Day for the spring Class of 2020. Following the Alma Mater, the bells will chime 20 times. This tribute will air live on Lander University’s Facebook page.

The President introduced the newest member of the President’s Cabinet – Todd Gambill, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management. Dr. Gambill stated that this pandemic has challenged the way in which Lander markets to first-time students. Events that previously took place face-to-face are now carried out virtually. The Office of Admissions began hosting virtual visits on the Lander University Admissions social media pages. Since guests could not dine with Lander University personnel on campus during virtual Junior Day, Lander delivered pizzas to their homes so they could still share a meal with staff members. There is now a live chat feature on the Lander website to answer questions quickly. Lander has also begun to text new students. Financial Aid hosted virtual sessions, as well. Lander has adapted to ensure that communication with its students and families remains strong during this pandemic.

The President informed the board that the State of South Carolina could face up to a 20% budget cut, including a potential significant budget cut for Lander University.

Lander University received \$3,536,994 from the CARES Act. Fifty percent of the funds (\$1,768,497) was sent directly to students. Each Pell Grant recipient received \$845. All remaining students received

\$500. All payments went directly to students for use on services for which the campus closure might have caused a hardship, including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare expenses. The remaining 50% can be used for costs incurred in transitioning the campus to an online learning environment or for reimbursement of the credits issued to students as a result of campus closure.

Lander intends for its students to return, as scheduled, in August. Deans and faculty are creating an Academic Affairs Resiliency Plan to ensure that, whatever situation Lander University will encounter in the fall, it will be able to offer its usual high-quality education to every student.

Necessary preparations to ensure the safety of students and employees include providing PPE, designating space for quarantine, exploring options for at-risk faculty to teach from home, and providing wellness equipment and cameras for live-stream instruction.

New campus additions will greet students in August. Construction is underway for the new Chick-fil-A, the renovations to the P.O.D. that will include Which-Wich, the expansion of Starbucks, and the replacement of roofs for the P.E.E.S., Art Annex, and Horne Arena.

### **III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

#### **1. Creation of Policy Board Committee**

John Craig made a motion to amend the bylaws to create a standing committee to continue the ongoing work on university policies, effective July 1; seconded by Jack Lawrence. The motion was unanimously approved. Bob Sabalis agreed to chair this new committee.

The ad hoc committee to revise the board bylaws will soon email board members the suggested bylaws changes for board review.

Chair Dolny recognized Lander University employees on behalf of the Lander Board of Trustees for their dedicated service during the disruption to Lander University caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Chair Dolny also thanked the President and his cabinet for maintaining optimism during the contingency planning required by the pandemic.

Chair Dolny recognized that this is former board chair Jack Lawrence's last board meeting. Jack Lawrence received applause and expressions of gratitude from the board after twelve years of dedicated service to Lander University.

Chair Dolny reminded board members to complete Title IX training prior to the September meeting.

Chair Dolny notified the board that CHE will issue a supportive letter of the opening of schools in the fall if the schools are ready and have met safety concerns conditions.

### **IV. UNIVERSITY POLICIES: Matt Braaten**

- 1. Classification Plan for Classified FTE Positions**
- 2. Classified FTE Pay Plan**
- 3. Leave Transfer Program**
- 4. Professional Reference Checks**
- 5. State Ethics Act Guidelines**
- 6. E-Signature**
- 7. Intellectual Property (revision)**

Bob Sabalis motioned to approve the seven policies presented to the board; seconded by Don Scott. All seven policies received unanimous approval.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic Affairs: Robert Barber**

- 1. New Program – Bachelor of Arts, Entrepreneurship**
- 2. New Program – Bachelor of Science, Cybersecurity**
- 3. New Program – Bachelor of Science, Data Science**

Robert Barber motioned to approve the three new degree program; seconded by John Craig. The motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Revision of Faculty Handbook**

Robert Barber motioned to approve the revisions to the faculty handbook, with the addition of the non-tenure-track promotion change on page 60. Seconded by Holly Bracknell. No opposition; the motion passed unanimously.

**Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell**

No action items.

**Institutional Advancement: John Craig**

No action items.

**Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Cathy Lee**

No action items.

**Finance and Audit/Governmental Affairs: Don Lloyd**

- 1. FY 20-21 Budget Proposal**

Ray Hunt made a motion to approve the FY 20-21 Budget Proposal; seconded by Anne Walker. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. FY 20-21 Individual Course Fee Proposal**

Anne Walker motioned to approve the FY 20-21 Individual Course Fee Proposal; seconded by Don Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

- 3. FY 20-21 Other Fee Proposal**

Cary Corbitt motioned to approve the FY20-21 Other Fee Proposal; seconded by Cathy Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Action Item:**

- 1. Board of Trustee Resolution: Conferral of Degrees**

Bob Sabalis motioned to approve the Conferral of Degrees Resolution; seconded by Cary Corbitt. The motion passed unanimously.

**Faculty Senate: Dr. Mandy Cleveland**

Report was received in the board packet.

**Staff Senate Report: Tracy Clifton**

Report was received in the board packet.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ray Hunt motioned to enter executive session for the receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or covered by attorney-client privilege; seconded by Don Lloyd. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Lloyd motioned to return to open session; seconded by Holly Bracknell. The board returned to open session.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Ray Hunt motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bob Sabalis. The motion passed unanimously.