

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Virtual Meeting
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Linda Dolny

Members of the Board in Attendance:

Angela Strickland
Anne Walker
Cary Corbitt
Cathy Lee
DeWitt Stone
Donald Lloyd
Donald Scott
James Shubert
John Craig
Marcia Hydrick
Peggy Makins
Ray Hunt
Robert Barber
Robert Sabalis
Terry Pruitt

Absent: Holly Bracknell

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; Chief 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: Megan Milligan, Index-Journal; and Jack Lawrence, of Spartanburg.

Chair Linda Dolny called the meeting to order and 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.

Dates to Remember:

May 10, 2021 -- Next meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 11, 2021 -- Spring 2021 Commencement Exercises

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Walker motioned to approve the December 14, 2020 board meeting minutes; seconded by Robert Sabalis. The board meeting minutes from December 2020 were approved by unanimous vote.

Donald Lloyd motioned to approve the February 2, 2021 board meeting minutes; seconded by Peggy Makins. The board meeting minutes from February 2021 were approved by unanimous vote.

II. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Dolny welcomed the board’s newest member, James Shubert, who was elected on March 3, 2021 by the South Carolina General Assembly to fill Seat 9 (at-large) vacated by the death of Maurice Holloway.

A. Trustee Emeritus Recommendation:

Chair Dolny entertained a motion to pass a resolution to appoint Jack Lawrence to the position of Trustee Emeritus. Anne Walker made the motion; seconded by Cathy Lee. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Adam Taylor read the text of the resolution aloud. The text of this resolution is found on page 6.

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee:

Chair Dolny appointed Cathy Lee, Ray Hunt, and Marcia Hydrick to the Nominating Committee. This committee will present a suggested slate of officers at the May meeting of the Board of Trustees.

III. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The president shared the following updates with board members:

COVID-19: Lander University is continuing to manage the COVID-19 pandemic well. The president meets regularly with the COVID-19 task force to assess latest COVID-19 developments. Lander University will continue following all safety protocols throughout the remainder of the spring semester. The president stated that students have responded well to the COVID-19 adjustments, and that Lander University is proud to have kept COVID-19 under control on the campus. Lander University has been approved as a vaccine distribution center, and is also serving as a COVID-19 testing site. Branded masks have also been distributed to students, faculty, and staff.

Enrollment: Lander University continues to have record breaking enrollment, with a higher percentage positive change in enrollment in the last year than all other state universities combined. The president also stated that, over the last five years, Lander University has increased its full time enrollment (FTE) by 33%, which is more than any other public research or comprehensive university in South Carolina.

Facilities and Maintenance: Lander University will have all current facilities and maintenance needs met by the end of the summer 2021, and will begin focusing on institutional growth.

Police Department and University Advancement: University Advancement has moved its operations to the Greenwood Building in Greenwood’s Uptown District, and the Police Department has moved into the building which formerly housed University Advancement. Prominent signage has been added to both buildings to identify Lander University’s presence. The portion of Genesis Hall which formerly housed the Police Department will allow for the expansion of Lander University’s Wellness Center and Academic Success Center.

Bank of America Building: The Bank of America building in Greenwood’s Uptown District, which was recently purchased by Lander University, will be utilized as a mix-use building and may house offices

and departments whose staff are not in daily contact with students to help free up on-campus space for academic use.

American Legion Building: The American Legion building is being renovated to build a nursing simulation lab for Lander University's nursing students.

Housing Renovations and Maintenance: The Lander University Office of Housing and Residence Life staff has met with Facilities staff to discuss functional and cosmetic priorities for summer housing renovations.

Cambridge Hall: The President's Cabinet is exploring ways to better utilize this space.

Field House II: Field House II is currently being renovated by Lander University Athletics, with plans for it to host Lander University's wrestling and lacrosse teams, as well as strength and conditioning areas for student athletes. Renovations will be completed by fall 2021.

Old Main Tower: Renovations to the tower of Laura Lander Hall will take place this summer.

Chipley Circle: Plans are being developed to renovate the traffic circle in front of Chipley Hall to create a more welcoming atmosphere for students and their families.

Sproles Student Center: The president expressed his safety concerns regarding the Sproles Student Center building, and referenced the action item from the Finance and Audit/Governmental Affairs Committee to authorize the demolition of this building. Plans are in place to convert the area into an updated student space.

Signage and Branding: The president shared concepts for new outdoor signage that will incorporate digital displays that will showcase up-to-date information that is easily interchangeable.

University Policies: The president commended the board for its work in reviewing, approving, and publishing 54 new policies over the last four years.

New Website: Lander University is working to launch a new website later this year. Lander University has outgrown its current website and design, and a new platform is needed to assist with online recruitment, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety and Security: The president shared plans for board members to participate in a safety and security retreat each year to update them on campus safety initiatives. Lander University has made significant investments in safety and security, and has worked to emphasize the importance of campus safety to students, faculty, and staff.

Online and Graduate Studies: The creation of the College of Online and Graduate Studies has been approved by the Faculty Senate. The president shared that COVID-19 has increased Lander University's focus on online and graduate programs, and growth in this area has made it necessary to create this new college.

State Budget: The president shared that the South Carolina General Assembly continues to be favorable towards Lander University with regard to funding. The president presented budget requests before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Higher Education in January 2021, and will present before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education later this month. The Ways and Means Committee

has recommended the approval of Lander University's current base budget and an additional \$6 million in non-recurring funding for maintenance and renovation.

Campus Updates: Lander University has completed renovations in 94 classroom spaces. The president shared plans to repair 6 of the 13 elevators on campus, with repairs to be completed later this fall.

A. Honorary Degree Recommendation:

The president made the recommendation to award an honorary degree to Scott Smith, chaplain of Lander University's Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Chair Dolny asked for a motion to do so. The motion was made by Anne Walker; seconded by Donald Lloyd. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs: Robert Barber

1. Faculty Handbook Edit

The motion was made by Robert Barber to change the date of reappointment notification for second through fifth year tenure-track faculty and probationary non-tenure track faculty from April 15 to May 15 in the Faculty Handbook; seconded by Ray Hunt. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell

No action items.

C. Finance and Audit/Governmental Affairs: Don Lloyd

1. Authorization for Demolition of Sproles Recreation Center

The motion was made by Donald Lloyd to authorize the demolition process for the Sproles Recreation Center building; seconded by Anne Walker. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

D. Institutional Advancement: John Craig

No action items.

E. Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Ray Hunt

No action items.

F. University Policies: Robert Sabalis

1. LP 12.1: Lander Population Survey Distribution

This policy provides guidance regarding the distribution of surveys to large population groups of the Lander University community, including, for example, all faculty, all staff, all students, and all alumni.

2. LP 3.14: External Grant Approval

This policy establishes a procedure that faculty must follow prior to applying for external grant funding.

Robert Sabalis made the motion to approve both policies; seconded by DeWitt Stone. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee – Robert Sabalis

Robert Sabalis presented the board with two recommendations from the committee:

1. To enhance transparency for the public regarding the terms of office of Board of Trustees members, the ad hoc committee recommends the inclusion of information about the terms of office of current Board of Trustees members on the Lander University Board of Trustees webpages.
2. To avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest in the situation wherein a Board of Trustees chair eligible for re-election to a second term would appoint the members of the Nominating Committee, the ad hoc committee recommends the development of an alternate procedure in this situation for appointing Nominating Committee members.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by John Craig to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Marcia Hydrick. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A RESOLUTION

OF THE LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPOINT JACK LAWRENCE TO THE POSITION OF TRUSTEE EMERITUS OF LANDER UNIVERSITY, AND TO EXTEND THE BOARD'S APPRECIATION TO JACK LAWRENCE FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO LANDER UNIVERSITY.

WHEREAS, in special recognition of his distinguished service to Lander University, the University wishes to acknowledge the dedication of Jack Lawrence to the University by appointing him to the position of Trustee Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence faithfully served as a member of Lander University's Board of Trustees for sixteen years until his retirement from the Board in the year 2020, and served in many leadership capacities during his tenure as a Trustee, including the role of Secretary, and as Chairman from 2013 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Lawrence successfully navigated the Board through the hiring process, installment, and inauguration of the University's twelfth President; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence and his family have made many generous gifts to the Lander University Foundation, including the establishment of the Jack and Daugthy Lawrence Endowed Scholarship, and contributions to a multitude of funds, including the Bearcat Club, the Excellence Fund, and most recently, the Lander Student Crisis Fund; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence's service to Lander University has made a positive impact on the University's Board of Trustees, and on the students, faculty, and staff of the University;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lander University Board of Trustees that it approves the appointment of Jack Lawrence to the position of Trustee Emeritus of Lander University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board herein extends its deepest appreciation to Mr. Lawrence for his years of dedication and service to Lander University, and to the Great State of South Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Mr. Lawrence, and that the text of this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of this Board, and shared with other University officials.