

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 15, 2021
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Donald Lloyd, Vice Chair

Members of the Board in Attendance:

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

Absent: Donald Scott, 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; 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.

Vice Chair Donald Lloyd called the meeting to order, in absence of Chair Scott.

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 December 14, 2021 board meeting minutes; seconded by Ray Hunt. The board meeting minutes from December 14, 2021 were approved by unanimous vote.

II. STATEMENT FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair Donald Lloyd gave a statement concerning the economic state of higher education,

including recent reports of how institutions of higher education are struggling with enrollment and budgetary issues. Vice Chair Lloyd shared concerns of the Executive Committee on how Lander University is positioning to bear “winter weather,” and requested that the president and Lander University leadership conduct a study to ensure that the institution is properly utilizing faculty, staff, and other institutional resources in a way that reflects a sustainable plan for the projected growth of Lander University.

III. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The president shared the following updates with board members:

Growth and Challenges: The president expressed his own concerns in response to the Vice Chair’s comments. The president stated that growth is both exciting and worrisome because of the new challenges that it presents the institution. He agreed with the Executive Committee’s request to study Lander University’s current position to ensure that the university is growing in an optimal way.

Operating Costs: The president expressed further concerns related to the rising operating costs caused by inflation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. These expenses include, but are not limited to, building and maintenance costs, and fuel and other energy costs. The president said that university leadership will continue to monitor these shifts in operating expenses.

New Website: The president asked Megan Price, Assistant Vice President for University Relations, to share Lander University’s new website with board members. Price walked the Board of Trustees through the new look of the university’s website, and shared some of the new navigational features that will make information easier to find for prospective students. Price said that the new website will also assist the Office of Admissions with their recruitment efforts.

State Appropriations: The president asked Adam Taylor to share updates on Lander’s projected appropriations in the State of South Carolina’s FY 2022-23 budget. Taylor shared that the president has given budget presentations to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and that members of both chambers continue to be impressed with Lander University’s performance in South Carolina. Taylor shared the following numbers from the House of Representatives’ version of the budget with the Board of Trustees:

Recurring	
Lander Base Budget	\$11,880, 546
Tuition Mitigation	\$2,441,095
South Carolina Institute on the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses	\$400,000
Capital Requests	
Information Commons Building	\$8,000,000
Repurpose Jackson Library to Academic Space	\$6,000,000
Total New Funds:	\$16,841,095

Taylor noted that while these numbers did not include any additional critical maintenance money, Lander University’s Office of Governmental Relations has been meeting with members of the South Carolina Senate to try to work in some additional money to help fund some of the university’s critical needs.

The president expressed his gratitude to the South Carolina General Assembly for their continued support of Lander University.

Enrollment Plan (3 Years): The president shared the projected enrollment numbers with the Lander University Board of Trustees. According to those projections, it is expected that the university will have 4,186 students in the fall of 2022, 4,309 students in the fall of 2023, and 4,412 students in the fall of 2024. The president said that, because of these projected numbers, the university is looking at ways to expand class schedules, offering more classes later in the day to accommodate the influx of students.

Ethics Training: The president reminded board members that they are required to take ethics training made available by the State of South Carolina. He requested that Adam Taylor send an additional update to board members with more information on the training. Crystal Rookard, Vice President and General Counsel, informed the board that this training is required to be completed at least every other year.

Sesquicentennial: The president reminded board members of the university's sesquicentennial celebration, which took place following the board meeting. He also shared news that Dr. Lisa Weicki and Dr. David Mash, of the Larry A. Jackson Library, have a contract to publish a book on the history of Lander University.

Vice President and CFO: The president informed the Board of Trustees that university leadership is actively recruiting qualified candidates to fill the vacancy for Vice President and CFO.

General Gervais: The president shared with the Board of Trustees that Lt. General Maria Gervais, a three-star general in the United States Army and alumna of Lander University, recently visited the university's campus and met with members of leadership and ROTC students.

Self Gift: The president shared news with the Board of Trustees of Self Regional Healthcare's monumental gift to Lander University. As part of the gift agreement, Self Regional's name will appear on the university's Nursing Skills Simulation Center, located in the building formerly known as Legion Hall, and the to-be-built nursing building. The president thanked Dr. Matt Logan, of Self Regional Healthcare, and his team for their work in the partnership.

New Buildings and Vehicles: Lander is currently working with architects on review of designs for the new nursing building. The president has also begun discussions with architects on the possibility of a new information commons building, pending the General Assembly's passage of the state's FY 2022-23 budget. The president also shared that the Lander University Police Department has also acquired new vehicles.

Signage: The president gave board members an update on signage around campus. New signage with lighting is planned for the Josephine B. Abney Cultural Center, and plans for additional signage around campus are also being finalized. The president stressed that these plans will bring more brand consistency across campus, in addition to making campus more accessible for campus visitors.

Screening Commission: The president reminded the board that at-large trustees will be screened by the Joint College and University Trustee Screening Commission later in the month of March.

SACSCOC: The president informed the Board of Trustees that accreditors will visit the university's campus later in the month of March related to Lander University's reaccreditation at the University Center of Greenville.

Pool Updates: The president shared with board members that there have been delays in the

construction of the new pool and pavilion, but assured board members that the university does expect the pool to be “in the ground” by the end of the summer.

A. Honorary Degree Recommendation

The president made the recommendation to award an honorary degree to Randy Bouknight, former Vice President of Student Affairs and current Special Gifts Officer at Lander University. Vice Chair Donald Lloyd asked for a motion to do so. The motion was made by Anne Walker; seconded by Robert Barber. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. 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 item:

1. Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education

The committee recommended adoption of the program proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education found in the Academic Affairs report.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Enrollment and Access Management

Angela Strickland 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

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

1. Housing Rate Proposal

The committee recommended adoption of the Housing Rate Proposal found in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit report.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Food Service Rate Proposal

The committee recommended adoption of the Food Service Rate Proposal found in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit report.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Course, Program, and Other Fees Proposal

The committee recommended adoption of the Course, Program, and Other Fees Proposal found in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit report.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. General Fee Allocation

The committee recommended adoption of the General Fee Allocation found in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit report.

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 item:

1. Policy on Policies

The committee recommended adoption of the Policy on Policies found in the Policy Committee report.

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 reports. The committee brought forward no action items.

V. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Robert Sabalis shared with the Board of Trustees updates to the Bylaws of the Lander University Board of Trustees made necessary by the board's previous adoption of the Bylaws. These updates included: descriptions of the duties of the officers of the Board of Trustees, charges and objectives of the board's committees, duties of the institutional officers of the university, information regarding the use of the university's seal, and a timeline for the annual evaluation of the president.

Robert Sabalis made the motion to amend the Bylaws of the Lander University Board of Trustees to include these updates as appendices to the Bylaws.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Faculty Senate

Daniel Harrison was unable to attend the Board of Trustees meeting due to a previous faculty commitment. A report from the Faculty Senate was presented to board members in absentia.

C. Staff Senate

Anissa Lawrence shared with the Board of Trustees the updates found in the Staff Senate report.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Linda Dolny to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Robert Barber.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.