

**LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Lander University  
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, December 13, 2022  
2:00 p.m.

**Presiding:** Don Scott

**Members of the Board in Attendance:**

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

**Absent:** Angela Strickland

**Others in Attendance:** President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Scott Jones, Provost and Executive Vice President of 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; 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; London Thomas, Director of Human Resources; Sadie Erwin, Executive Assistant to the President; Dr. John Moore, Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Graham Duncan, Chair of the Staff Senate.

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

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 September 13, 2022 board meeting minutes; seconded by John Craig. The board meeting minutes from September 13, 2022 were approved by unanimous vote.

## II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Scott recognized board members who have served over 20 years, 15 years, and 10 years. He thanked the Board of Trustees, President Cosentino, members of the Cabinet, faculty, and staff for their leadership and accomplishments over the course of the last calendar year, including fundraising milestones, increasing state appropriations, increasing student enrollment, and implementing new academic programs.

## III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

**Legislative Luncheon Presentation:** The President provided the Board of Trustees with copies of the presentation that was given to legislators during Lander University's annual legislative luncheon, held on November 18, 2022. The presentation provided an overview of Lander's budget requests for FY 2023-24.

**South Carolina Institute for the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses:** The President provided an update on the establishment of this new institute, noting that it will more than likely be housed in Greenville. A national search is underway for the institute's inaugural director.

**TikTok:** The President shared that Governor Henry McMaster issued an order banning TikTok on all state agency devices due to security concerns. Lander University is complying with this order.

**Strategic Plan:** The President provided the Board of Trustees with a draft of Lander University's revised strategic plan. This comes after a full review of the strategic plans of other universities, and in-depth meetings with faculty and staff. The new strategic plan will continue to be reviewed by administration and the Board of Trustees, and a final version will be considered at a future meeting.

## 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 items:

#### 1. **B.S. in Fitness and Wellness**

The committee recommended approval of a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Fitness and Wellness. The goal of this program is to serve students who are interested in the field of exercise science, specifically fitness and wellness, but who do not wish to prepare for a graduate program in physical therapy, occupational therapy, or athletic training.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### 2. **B.A. in English, Creative Writing**

The committee recommended approval of a new emphasis in creative writing to Lander's English degree program. The new emphasis is designed to serve student interest. Approximately half of the students pursuing an English degree with an emphasis in professional writing would prefer to focus more on creative writing. The new emphasis is a modification of the professional writing emphasis, requiring students to focus more on creative writing and literature.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**3. Faculty Handbook Revisions**

The committee recommended approval of revisions to the Faculty Handbook to update policies to align with Lander’s current practices and to provide documentation of Lander’s policies for SACSCOC. These were approved by the Faculty Senate and the full faculty. Further details of these revisions were made available to board members in the Academic Affairs Committee report.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Other handbook revisions were provided as information only for the Board of Trustees to consider at a later meeting.

**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**

Donald 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 Tuition, General Fee, and Special Rates Proposal**

The committee recommended approval of the FY 2023-24 Tuition, General Fee, and Special Rates Proposal. This proposal extended the freeze of tuition and general fees. Further details of the proposal were made available to board members in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit / Governmental and Strategic Initiatives Committee report.

A roll call vote was required for this action item:

Name	YEA	NAY
Donald Scott	√	
Robert Barber	√	
Holly Bracknell	√	
John Craig	√	
Linda Dolny	√	
Raymond Hunt	√	
Marcia Hydrick	√	
Catherine Lee	√	
Donald Lloyd	√	
Peggy Makins	√	
Terry Pruitt	√	
Robert Sabalis	√	
Jim Shubert	√	
DeWitt Stone	√	
Angela Strickland (absent)		
Anne Walker	√	

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**2. Requesting Approval for Upcoming Projects Estimated Between \$1 and \$2 Million**

The committee recommended approval of the following repair and replacement projects:

- i. Repair, replace and upgrade of education & general elevators on campus.
- ii. Repair and replacement of major utility systems of the Graduate School – Online and Academic Support Building.
- iii. Repair and replace the laboratory ventilation hoods of multiple biology and chemistry laboratories within the Science Center.

Further details of these projects and their anticipated costs were made available to board members in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit / Governmental and Strategic Initiatives Committee 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 items:

**1. Awarding Honorary Degrees**

The committee recommended adoption of the Awarding of Honorary Degrees Policy (LP2.4), which defines the policy and processes for the nomination and selection of a potential recipient of an honorary degree from Lander University and the conferral of the honorary degree. Further details were provided to board members in the Policy Committee report.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**2. Release of Student Information to Third Parties**

The committee recommended adoption of the Release of Student Information to Third Parties Policy (LP12.2), which establishes guidelines for all third parties requesting student information for solicitation purposes. Further details were provided to board members 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 report. The committee brought forward no action items.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Faculty Senate**

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

**B. Staff Senate**

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

## **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session: Discussion of employment, compensation, promotion, discipline, or release of employees, students, or persons regulated by Lander University.

The motion was made by Anne Walker to enter into executive session; seconded by Robert Sabalis.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Board of Trustees returned from Executive Session at the call of Chair Scott. No action was taken in Executive Session.

Robert Sabalis made a motion to authorize President Cosentino under Lander By-Laws Section 9.3 to annul any action of the staff or faculty, when in the President's judgement, such action is not in harmony with the purposes, policies, and By-Laws of the University or when the President judges such action to be unwise; seconded by DeWitt Stone.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Donald Lloyd made a motion to authorize the President to launch searches for deans, and set the guidelines for the composition of each search committee. This authorization would supersede all other policies. The motion was seconded by John Craig.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Robert Sabalis to adjourn the meeting; seconded by John Craig.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.