

**LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Tuesday, September 10, 2019  
10:30 a.m.

**Presiding:** Linda Dolny

**Members of the Board in Attendance:**

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

**Absent:**

Cary Corbitt

**Others in Attendance:** President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Scott Jones, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Adam Taylor, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Governmental Relations; Stacie Bowie, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Boyd Yarbrough, Vice President for Student Affairs; Mike Worley, Vice President for University Advancement; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics; Crystal Rookard, Vice President and General Counsel; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Megan Price, Assistant Vice President of University Relations and Publications.

**Guests:** Aleks Gilbert, Index Journal; Dr. Mandy Cleveland, Faculty Senate Chair; Tracy Clifton, Staff Senate Chair; Laura Brown, University Relations; Deb Nygro, University Relations; Jenifer Mathis, Executive Director of Admissions; Brian Hamm, Assistant Vice President for Student Success; Michelle Lodato, Director of Student Financial Aid.

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:**

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:30 pm – Scholarship Banquet

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 11:30 am – December Board Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 18 10:30 am – December Commencement

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Maurice Holloway motioned to approve the June minutes; Bob Sabalis seconded the motion. The June minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Cosentino thanked the board members for attending the State of the University Address.

**Campus Security Updates: Chief Greg Allen**

Lander will have mandatory faculty/staff safety trainings each semester. The first safety training was held before classes started, on August 16. New security features are coming soon to campus. A new door access control system will be installed, along with additional officer transportation, shields for officers, radios, and new security cameras. The Lander University Police Department is currently fully staffed.

**General Education: Provost Dr. Scott Jones**

General Education requirements are currently being revised to make Lander a transfer-friendly university. Revisions will allow current students the flexibility to pick up a minor or second major, making our students more marketable as they seek careers.

**Launch into Lander: Dr. Boyd Yarbrough**

Multiple departments worked together to focus on a robust welcome week for incoming freshmen. Events were designed to initiate early student involvement and make it easier for students to establish connections with each other, employees, and the community.

**Renovations & Expansion: Dr. Stacie Bowie**

This past July, the campus Dining Hall was renovated to provide 70 additional seats. Plans are in place to further expand the Dining Hall to accommodate an expanding student enrollment.

An additional espresso machine has been requested in Starbucks. To offset Dining Hall volume, Lander is exploring areas in the Science building to house a national food service brand. Current national brands on campus are Which Wich, Twisted Taco, and Starbucks.

**III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Linda Dolny announced the new SC Commission on Higher Education Executive Director, Rusty Monhollon. Chair Dolny and Adam Taylor met with Mr. Monhollon along with Senator Floyd Nicholson to discuss Lander University and issues in the state comprehensive institutions. Mr. Monhollon has requested to attend a Lander Board meeting in the future. At the last CHE meeting, it was announced that South Carolina is losing 5,000 teachers a year, with its colleges graduating only 1,700 teachers a year. The CHE is considering convening a group to study this issue.

A meeting will be called before early November to vote on new degree program approvals before the December CHE meeting.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### **Academic Affairs: Robert Barber**

No action items.

Lander welcomed twelve new faculty members this fall. Currently Lander has two interim deans. Lander has hired and trained 27 student leaders for "PASS," Peer-Assisted Student Sessions. The LINK (Leadership, Involvement, Networking, and Knowledge) program has grown and now includes trained peer mentors.

##### **Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell**

No action items

The most recent enrollment is 3,224 students, which is a 6.5% increase from last year.

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

###### **1. Resolution for Revised Lease- Athletic Complex**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the resolution for a revised lease of the Athletic Complex. No second is required. All approved; the resolution for the revised lease passed unanimously.

##### **Institutional Advancement: John Craig**

###### **1. Lander University/Lander Foundation Affiliation Agreement**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the Lander University/Lander Foundation Affiliation Agreement. No second is required. The motion was approved. Robert Sabalis abstained.

##### **Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Ray Hunt**

No action items

Currently Lander has only 10 assignable vacancies in residence halls. This is a record year for students living on campus. The E-Sports gaming lounge will open in September. Today is Suicide Awareness Day. Student Affairs staff are currently spreading awareness of suicide prevention on campus. Lander welcomed around 3,000 guests for the Budweiser Clydesdales event.

#### V. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- 1. Other Leave Programs**
- 2. Separation from Employment**
- 3. Substance Abuse and Testing**

Anne Walker motioned to approve the three policies presented to the board; seconded by Ray Hunt. All approved. The policies were passed unanimously.

#### VI. OTHER BUSINESS

##### **Faculty Senate: Dr. Mandy Cleveland**

Over the summer, the administration approved a \$250 stipend to faculty who completed an Online Training course for Online Instruction. The board was thanked for supporting this initiative. Sixty-three full-time faculty and 20 adjunct faculty have completed training to be able to teach online courses.

Revisions of the General Education requirements will give students the flexibility to participate in study abroad, complete an internship, gain a minor, or a double-major.

##### **Staff Senate Report: Tracy Clifton**

This is the third year for the Staff Senate. Currently all serving senators were elected to the Staff Senate by their peers. Cross-collaboration between departments is beginning to take place. Involvement since this summer has included Staff Excellence Awards, Staff Field Day, Department

Spotlight, and Employee of the Month, along with increasing staff knowledge of university departmental functions.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Maurice Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss compensation for an employee; seconded by John Craig. The motion passed unanimously.

The board subsequently returned to open session.

Anne Walker made a motion pursuant to the November 15, 2018 Professional Employment Agreement of President Richard Cosentino for a 3.5% supplemental salary adjustment to be effective November 15, 2019. Seconded by Jack Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Jack Lawrence motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ray Hunt. The motion was unanimously approved.