

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Friday, December 15, 2017
2:30 p.m.

Presiding: Linda Dolny

Members of the Board in Attendance:

- Anne Walker
- Cathy Lee
- Cary Corbitt
- Claude Robinson
- DeWitt Stone
- Holly Bracknell
- Jack Lawrence
- Marcia Hydrick
- Maurice Holloway
- Peggy Makins
- Ray Hunt
- Robert Barber
- Robert Sabalis

Absent:

- Angela Strickland
- Bobby Bowers
- Don Lloyd

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Suzanne Ozment, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs; Greg Lovins, Vice President for Business and Administration; Adam Taylor, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Governmental Relations; Randall Bouknight, Vice President for Student Affairs; Andy Benoit, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Van Taylor, Interim Vice President for University Advancement; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Megan Price, Assistant Vice President of University Relations and Publications.

Guests: Professor Ashley Lee, Chair of Faculty Senate; Rodney Jones, Chair of Staff Senate; Mark Newsome and Scott McKay, Cherry Beakert; Chris Clark, Clark Eustace Wagner; Deb Nygro, Office of University Relations and Publications; Denise Manley, Director of Alumni Affairs; Laura Brown, Governmental Relations; Ariel Gilreath, Index Journal.

Chair Dolny stated for the record that appropriate publicity, in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, had been disseminated and this meeting complied with that act.

Chair Dolny acknowledged and welcomed all guests then called the regular meeting of the Lander University Board of Trustees to order.

Chair Dolny mentioned the items in the packet, a copy of the LU Forum and travel vouchers.

Dates to Remember:

Ways and Means Budget Presentation: January 10th

Homecoming: February 10th

March Board Meeting: March 13th

The Drop – Athletic Fundraiser: April 28th

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Bob Sabalis motioned to approve the minutes Anne Walker seconded the motion. The September minutes were approved unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino announced that Lander is reaccredited for 10 years. He thanked Dr. Ozment for her hard work, recognizing that SACSCOC presented her with the Carol A. Luthman Meritorious Service Award at the conference in Dallas held in December.

ACTION ITEM:

1. FY 2018-2019 Tuition/General Fees/Housing

President Cosentino recommended Lander freeze tuition, general fees, and housing costs for 2018-2019. Maurice Holloway made a motion to approve, seconded by Cary Corbitt. Chair Dolny asked for a show of hands. Recorded vote: Anne Walker, Bob Sabalis, Cary Corbitt, Cathy Lee, Claude Robinson, Holly Bracknell, Jack Lawrence, Linda Dolny, Maurice Holloway, Peggy Makins, Ray Hunt, Robert Barber.

DeWitt Stone abstained from voting. Motion to freeze FY 2018-2019 Tuition/General Fees/Housing passed.

In January, Lander will begin an initiative to raise student awareness of the risks of falling below a 3.0 GPA. Students who receive state scholarships must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0.

The Lander Foundation signed a contract to purchase the American Legion building and contents for \$100,000. This purchase is an excellent investment opportunity and will provide needed space.

Legislators have expressed their concerns about a high percentage of out of state students attending state universities. Consequently, this year Clemson and USC have decreased their out-of-state students and increased in-state enrollment. This has decreased the number of available freshman candidates for the comprehensives. Francis Marion, College of Charleston, USC Aiken, Winthrop all saw a loss of in-state freshman. While Lander did not decrease in enrollment this year, we need to be prepared to deal with this for 2018.

The president introduced Crystal Rookard, Lander’s new General Counsel. She is responsible for policies, the University Advisory Committee, Human Resources, as well as representing Lander on legal issues and coordinating external representation. Crystal will oversee Staff Senate, Diversity Council, Lander Leadership Academy, and employee of the month. Crystal gave an update stating that the Inn on the Square lawsuit was unsuccessful in mediation, but The Foundation will be dismissed from lawsuit.

Matt Braaten introduced Directorpoint as the new web and app software for the Board. Via Directorpoint, documents will be shared, votes recorded, discussions held, and links posted. Board members can use the administrative assistant feature to allow their assistants to act on their behalf.

Adam Taylor introduced the Legislative Action Plan. Notebooks were distributed to Board members containing the plan and contact information. This plan divides board members into congressional district groups. Board members were given the responsibility to build relationships with the delegation of their assigned district.

III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

ACTION ITEMS:

1. By-Laws

Chair Dolny thanked Bob Sabalis, DeWitt Stone, and George Starnes for their comparison of Lander By-Laws with other Universities. She proposed an ad hoc Committee responsible to review the By-Laws and make suggestions on potential changes to the board. Maurice Holloway made a motion to establish an ad hoc committee, Robert Sabalis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Committee Structure

Chair Dolny asked the Board to create an ad Hoc Committee to review the Board of Trustees committee structure. Ray Hunt made a motion to approve the creation of this ad hoc committee. Jack Lawrence seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The board retreat will probably be in July or August so that new board members can participate. Chair Dolny thanked Sadie Erwin and all involved in the memorial service for Dr. Jackson. The service honored Dr. Jackson and his contributions to Lander as well as those to the state and nation. The Christmas Tree lighting service was well attended. Chair Dolny was thankful for student organizations for decorating and donating trees to local families.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs: Robert Barber

General Education hours were reduced from 52 to 42 hours and will go into effect Fall 2018. This will give students more choice in course selection. Two professors are taking sabbaticals next year for the first time in 8 years. A new concentration in Elementary grades 4th-6th in Montessori was approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Deletion of Concentration in Exercise and Sports Studies in the M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning.

The recommendation to delete the Concentration in Exercise and Sports Studies in the M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning is based upon low enrollment. This motion comes from committee, no second is required. All approved and the motion was passed.

2. Elimination of the Criminal Justice Concentration in Sociology

Lander now has a B.S. degree in Criminology. The concentration of Criminal Justice under the Sociology degree is no longer needed. The motion to eliminate the Criminal Justice Concentration in Sociology comes from committee no second is required. All approved and the motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Facilities: Maurice Holloway

Maurice Holloway requested that Adam Taylor speak regarding Governmental Relations. Lander will host a Legislative Luncheon with local legislators on January 4th. Lander will present our requests on January 10th to Ways & Means Higher Education Subcommittee. New Analyst AJ Newton, Aiken native with masters in Higher Ed. Administration. Lander is maintaining relationship with Greenwood City and County Council.

The budget requests for this year are the same as last year. Two recurring requests are “Cyber Security” and “MBA program” Two non-recurring requests are classroom and laboratory upgrades and replacing science and nursing equipment. There is also a bond bill request for 5 million dollars for nursing building renovation and expansion, and 7.5 million dollars for the Grier Student Center renovation and expansion. The bond bill is on the House calendar.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. FY 2017-2018 Budget Report

Greg Lovins requested approval for Budget Amendment #2. This will increase designated revenues and expenses of \$200,000 for the PTSD program. Also, we request an increase in restricted revenues and expenses \$264,000. This reflects increases in several grant programs. This motion comes from committee, no second is required. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Presentation of June 30, 2017 Financial Audit Report

Chris Clark from Clark Eustace Wagner distributed and explained the external audit report. There were no findings, or weaknesses to report. The motion to approve the external audit comes from committee, no second is required. The motion passed unanimously

RECESS: Chair Dolny called a 2-minute Recess. After returning to session, action items for Finance and Facilities continued:

3. Internal Audit Report Plan

Scott McKay and Mark Newsome requested the board approve the three-year internal audit plan from Cherry Bekaert. This motion comes from committee, no second is required. Motion passed unanimously

Institutional Advancement: Cary Corbitt

The Ball Drop is scheduled for April 28, 2018. Denise Manley is working on a Parent Club Program and Van Taylor has doubled members in the Bearcat Club. No action items.

Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Claude Robinson

No Action Items

Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell

Applications have surpassed last year’s numbers (Fall 17: 3,151 vs Fall 18: 4,233). The administration is continuing work on yield for applicants. No action items.

V. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Matt Braaten presented several new policies for approval. Policy approval work flow has improved. Each policy is assigned a number and given a checklist requiring signatures. The checklist follows the history of each policy.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Intellectual Property

Jack Lawrence motioned to approve the intellectual property policy, second by Ray Hunt. Motion to approve policy passed unanimously.

2. Senior Administrator Evaluations

Maurice Holloway motioned to approve the Senior Administrator Evaluations policy, second by Bob Sabalis. Motion to approve policy passed unanimously.

3. Unauthorized Recording

Ray Hunt motioned to approve the Unauthorized Recording policy, second by Cary Corbitt. Motion to approve policy passed unanimously.

4. Hazardous Weather and Other Emergency Conditions

Maurice Holloway motioned to approve policy, second by Ray Hunt. Motion to approve policy passed unanimously.

5. Reading Day

Jack Lawrence motioned to approve policy, second by Bob Sabalis. Motion to approve policy passed unanimously.

6. Email Use and Policy for Faculty and Staff

Claude Robinson motioned to approve policy, second by Bob Sabalis. Motion to approve policy passed unanimously.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Faculty Senate: Ashley Lee

Faculty is thankful that we received good news from SACSCOC. Dr. Mark Pilgrim and his team worked very hard to make LINK 101 program a success. The General Education curriculum changed drastically for the first time in a decade. Credit hours decreased from 52 to 42. Faculty noticed an increase in FALS credit events.

Staff Senate: Rodney Jones

Staff Senate is new this year and is off to a great start. We have received good interaction and suggestions from our staff. With the help of Human Resources, Staff Senate has been able to carry those suggestions. We've implemented casual/spirit Fridays to allow staff to enjoy a relaxed day and "new employee" email notifications to communicate new job roles and connect new employees with current employees. The first Staff Senate election will be held in late April.

VII. Executive Session

Maurice Holloway motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Ray Hunt.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Ray Hunt and second by Jack Lawrence