

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Linda Dolny

Members of the Board in Attendance:

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

Via Call:
Angela Strickland

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; Andy Benoit, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; 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.

Guests: Laura Brown, University Relations; Deb Nygro, University Relations; Dr. Albert Dukes, Chair of Faculty Senate; Michael Ficklin, Chair of Staff Senate; Aleks Gilbert, Index Journal.

Chair 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 this meeting complied with that order.

Dates to Remember:

Friday, April 26, 2019 – The Drop, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 – Spring Commencement

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 – Board Meeting

July 9-11 – Board Retreat

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marcia Hydrick motioned to approve the December minutes; Cary Corbitt seconded the motion. The December minutes were approved unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Cosentino thanked the board members for their service to Lander University. Dr. Cosentino was pleased to report that all enrollment metrics are up along with increased morale on campus.

To accommodate continuing this growth, Lander will strengthen online and graduate programs. Lander will soon offer classes at The University Center of Greenville.

Dr. Cosentino discussed strategies for enhancing student experience, student retention, saving energy, as well as a hiring plan. Alternative time frames to graduation are being considered, including compressed schedules and incentives to graduate early.

President Cosentino introduced Dr. Scott Jones, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Stacie Bowie, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Dolny welcomed the new Vice Presidents to Lander. She indicated that it is time for a slate of officers for the Board of Trustees to be presented for the next term. Ray Hunt, Peggy Makins, and Holly Bracknell will serve as the Nominating Committee and will submit a slate of officers for consideration for the next two years. Chair Dolny requested recommendations to increase the visible presence of Lander University in Greenwood.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs: Robert Barber

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Faculty Handbook Revision

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the revisions made to the faculty handbook. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

2. University Center of Greenville

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval to offer courses at The University Center of Greenville. Further approval will be sought from CHE and SACSCOC. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell

No action items.

Spring 2019 enrolment has seen nearly a 7% increase since spring 2018. Last year’s enrollment produced the highest FTE in a decade along with highest number of credit hours. Ms. Bracknell

noted that Lander has a very active contact campaign which includes faculty, staff, and alumni.

Finance and Audit/ Governmental: Don Lloyd

1. FY 2018-2019 Budget Amendment

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of Budget Amendment #3. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

2. FY 2019-2020 Tuition, General Fees and Housing Proposal

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval for 2019-2020 tuition, general fees, and housing to remain the same. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

3. 2018 Financial Audit Report

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the 2018 Financial Audit Report. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

Institutional Advancement: Cary Corbitt

1. Lander University/Lander Foundation Memorandum of Understanding

Committee tabled item to June meeting for further discussion.

Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Ray Hunt

No action items.

There has been an increase in student athlete GPA from fall of last year. One of our women's basketball players, Jessica Harris, received the honor of "Peach Belt Athlete of the Year." An offer will be made for a new men's basketball coach this month.

Boyd Yarbrough is currently restructuring the entire Division of Student Affairs to be more responsive to changing student needs, to be more efficient with staffing and resources, and to enhance retention and student satisfaction at Lander. The plan is expected to be implemented during the spring term of 2019. The plan aligns the department into three functional areas, including: Student Life and Engagement, Student Development and Outreach, and Wellness Center and Holistic Support Services.

Lander Housing is currently at 84% bed occupancy, as compared to the 2018 spring semester of 74% occupancy.

The Peach Belt Conference decided on Lander University as its host for the 2019 Esports League of Legends on-site conference tournament on March 29-30.

There is an ongoing search for a full-time nurse in the Wellness Center.

V. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. Background Screening

Don Lloyd motioned to approve the policy. Seconded by Ray Hunt. All approved. The Background Screening Policy passed unanimously.

2. Dual Employment

Ray Hunt motioned to approve the policy. Seconded by Cary Corbitt. All approved. The Dual Employment Policy passed unanimously.

3. Nepotism and Preferential Treatment

Peggy Makins motioned to approve the policy. Seconded by Robert Sabalis. All approved. The Nepotism and Preferential Treatment Policy passed unanimously.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Faculty Senate: Dr. Albert Dukes

The Senate is currently working with Dr. Scott Jones and Brian Hamm to develop new strategies to increase the freshman retention rate at Lander.

The Faculty Senate is working with the Lander University Center of Online and Innovative Learning to develop a handbook for who will teach online. In addition to this handbook, the Center for Online and Innovative Learning is conducting a series of training sessions to ensure that Lander's faculty are on the cutting edge of Online Education.

Dr. Dukes invited board members to attend and support students in the Academic Symposium on April 8-11th.

Staff Senate: Michael Ficklin

Mr. Michael Ficklin reiterated that staff morale has increased. Staff Senate committees are addressing ways to improve employee recognition by creating bi-monthly department spotlights. Staff is very pleased with upcoming customer service training provided by Human Resources. Staff Senate is currently planning a possible Greenville Drive outing. Mr. Ficklin believes that the timing is good for Lander's presence at The University Center of Greenville.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Anne Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cary Corbitt. The motion was unanimously approved.