

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Monday December 17, 2018
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Linda Dolny

Members of the Board in Attendance: Angela Strickland
Anne Walker
Cary Corbitt
Cathy Lee
DeWitt Stone
Don Lloyd
Don Scott
Holly Bracknell
Jack Lawrence
John Craig
Kathy Lee
Marcia Hydrick
Maurice Holloway
Peggy Makins
Ray Hunt
Robert Sabalis
Robert Barber

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Jim Colbert, Interim Provost; Adam Taylor, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Governmental Relations; 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; Megan Price, Assistant Vice President of University Relations and Publications.

Guests: Tom Covar, Business & Administration; Laura Brown, Governmental Relations; Deb Nygro, University Relations; Dr. Albert Dukes, Chair of Faculty Senate; Michael Ficklin, Chair of Staff Senate; Greg Allen, Chief of Police; Aleks Gilbert, Index Journal.

Chair Linda Dolny stated for the record that the 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. Board members were reminded to complete their travel vouchers.

Chair Dolny stated there has been a proposed amendment to the agenda. Due to an exigent circumstance, action on a recently revised demand letter may be taken upon adjournment of Executive Session. Robert Barber motioned to add this item to the agenda, second made by Anne Walker. All approved and the agenda item was added unanimously.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 – December Commencement, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 9, 2019 – Homecoming

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – March Board Meeting

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

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 – Spring Commencement, 11:00 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Maurice Holloway motioned to approve the September minutes. Robert Sabalis seconded his motion. The September minutes were approved unanimously.

Ray Hunt motioned to approve the minutes from the November conference call meeting. DeWitt Stone seconded his motion. The November minutes were approved unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Cosentino thanked the board for their hard work and gifted each member with an individual Lander board member jacket.

The president announced the new members of the administration. Dr. Scott Jones will start as provost on January 7. A new CFO will be announced on January 2nd. Greg Allen has been named the new Chief of Police and Mike Worley is the new Vice President for University Advancement.

President Cosentino was appointed Vice Chairman of the SACSCOC peer review and advisory committee for the state of South Carolina. President Cosentino also serves as the vice president of the Peach Belt Conference.

Training will occur at the March and June board meetings. In March, the board will have Title IX training, with ethics training scheduled in June.

The board retreat will focus on planning a capital campaign.

Adam Taylor discussed Senate Bill 298. This bill creates an annual \$125 million trust fund for public higher education institutions in South Carolina. Funds will be allocated based on an institution’s in-state student enrollment. Legislation is also proposing lottery changes to include money for need-based scholarships.

President Cosentino suggested that the board amend the strategic plan in March. He will have potential changes available for discussion at the March meeting.

Lander needs to be innovative, informed, fast, and responsive to stakeholder needs, with attractive pricing and smart investments. We must remain current.

Lander currently has 75 graduate students. Lander once had 500 graduate students and hopes to return to this number.

The president stated that Lander University was preliminary approved to open a facility at The University Center in Greenville.

The president also announced a seminar for students on citizenship, leadership and values.

President Cosentino announced that General Counsel Crystal Rookard has been promoted to the position of Vice President and General Counsel.

III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Dolny stated that for-profit education schools are shrinking and closing South Carolina locations. Virginia College recently closed all South Carolina locations, leaving 1,050 students. There are innovative programs being pursued at all South Carolina institutions (e.g., three-year degree programs, partnerships between colleges and public-school systems, online and distance learning). Greenville Tec just received permission to add a non-transferable, four year Baccalaureate in Manufacturing program.

Our enrollment has increased, while the enrollment of many other institutions have decreased. While Lander is doing well currently, we need to continue to stay ahead of the challenges.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs: Robert Barber

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Faculty Handbook Revision

This action item will be postponed until the March meeting.

2. Concentration in Forensic Science to the BS in Environmental Science

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustee approval for adding a concentration in Forensic Science; no second is required. All approved, and motion passed unanimously.

3. Tenure for new Provost, Dr. Scott Jones

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustee approval of tenure for the incoming Provost. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell

For fall of 2019, Lander has received 4,518 applicants and processed 1,776 admits. We are also up 35% in committed students since last year.

Lander awarded 400 scholarships during the first cycle for fall of 2019. There will be two more award cycles this year.

Lander now has signed eight agreements for concurrent and dual enrollment courses with high schools and homeschool associations in South Carolina. we currently have 98 concurrent and dual enrollment students enrolled for fall of 2018. Ultimately, Lander is seeking to have 300-500 students in concurrent and dual enrollment programs.

Finance and Audit/ Governmental: Don Lloyd

There is a new chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee who is favorable to higher education. The political forum hosted at Lander in November prior to the election was successful.

Every member of the Lander faculty and staff received a 2.1% salary increase.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. FY 2018-2019 Budget Report Amendment #2

A motion came from committee to seek Board of Trustee approval for budget Amendment #2. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

Institutional Advancement: Cary Corbit

No action items.

Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Ray Hunt

No action items.

Lander housing is at 87% occupancy.

We now have 35 athletes on our men's lacrosse team, 23 athletes on our women's lacrosse team, and 40 athletes on our men's wrestling team.

V. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Matt Braaten discussed the revised policy review workflow.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Faculty Senate: Dr. Albert Dukes

The Faculty Senate worked diligently to reconstruct the Faculty Handbook, working with Dr. TD Maze and the Graduate Program Committee.

The faculty is currently examining existing academic policies for graduate programs to ensure their relevance to all graduate programs.

The Faculty Senate passed unanimously a resolution thanking Dr. Cosentino for the recent 2.1% salary increase.

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences received two grants from South Carolina Humanities. The college used these grant funds to organize a year-long civic engagement series entitled "Achieving the Promise." These events have been well attended and included a candidate forum on campus in October.

Three Lander University faculty members have published books this semester: Dr. Ryan Floyd, Dr. Kevin Witherspoon, and Dr. Michael Brizek. Additionally, ten other faculty members have had scholarly papers published this semester. Dr. Frank Rausch, from the Department of History and Philosophy, was invited to present on his research in Korean history at a talk at the South Korean consulate in Los Angeles, as well as at a conference in South Korea.

Staff Senate: Michael Ficklin

The following committees were established: Employee Appreciation and Recognition, Professional Development, Elections and Bylaws, and Communications.

The Staff Senate created "Department Spotlight," to inform faculty and staff about the many department roles on campus. Each department will be spotlighted to explain what the department does, who is in the department, and the achievements of the department.

The Professional Development Committee is developing guidelines for training new employees, communicating career pathways and available professional development tools.

VII. Executive Session

Maurice Holloway made a motion to go into Executive Session for receipt of legal advice. The motion was seconded by Jack Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.

The board returned to open session. Jack Lawrence motioned to reject the distinct demands made in a letter from Dr. Dan Ball's attorney that would require the consideration and approval of the Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Ray Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Maurice Holloway motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Don Scott. The motion was unanimously approved.