

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LANDER UNIVERSITY

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

Tuesday, December 13, 2016
3:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mr. Jack Lawrence, Chair

Members of the Board in Attendance:

Mr. Robert Barber
Mrs. Holly Bracknell
Mr. Cary Corbitt
Dr. Linda Dolny
Mrs. Catherine Frederick
Mr. Maurice Holloway
Mr. Ray Hunt
Mrs. Marcia Hydrick
Dr. Peggy Makins
Mr. Claude Robinson
Dr. Robert Sabalis
Dr. DeWitt Stone
Mrs. Angela Strickland
Mrs. S. Anne Walker

Absent-
Mr. Bobby Bowers
Mr. Don Lloyd

Others in Attendance: President Richard E. Cosentino; Dr. David Mash, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Greg Lovins, Vice President for Business and Administration; Mr. Andy Benoit, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Mr. H. Randall Bouknight, Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Adam Taylor, Vice President for Governmental Relations; Mr. Van Taylor, Interim Vice President for University Advancement; and Mr. Matt Braaten, Office of the President.

Guests: Dr. Jason Lee, Chair, Faculty Senate; Mr. Les Robinson, Interim Athletic Director; Ms. Megan Price, Director, University Relations and Publications; Mr. Deb Nygro, University Relations and Publications; Dr. David Gardner, Professor Chemistry and his students: Ravon House, William Kunkle and Lori Smith

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

The regular meeting of the Lander University Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Lawrence who acknowledged and welcomed all guests.

Dr. David Gardner and his students presented the Board with a gift per the request from Mrs. Jessica Cosentino. This is connected with the soap project and is a token of appreciation for the Board's support of our students. The art department presented a handmade mug as well as a token of appreciation. These were individually made by our art students.

Items in your packet:

Emeritus Policy Worksheet
Board of Trustees Member Directory

Dates to remember:

February 11, 2017 – Homecoming
March 7, 2017 – March Board Meeting
March 14-16, 2017 – SACSCOC On-Site Visit

Chair Lawrence officially welcomed Dr. Peggy Makins to our Board of Trustees.

MINUTES: IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the minutes of the last meeting, Tuesday, September 20, 2016, be approved. A vote was taken; the motion carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Mr. Robert Barber reported on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee. He called attention to the report from the Office of Academic Affairs, which had been distributed earlier. (A copy of the report will be made a part of the official minutes.) Mr. Barber highlighted the following:

Mr. Barber stated that the Academic Affairs Committee has three action items to bring before the Board for approval as a recommendation out of committee. He then presented the following action items:

1. **Approval for SACSCOC Quality Enhancement Plan:** Mr. Barber led the discussion. Dr. Nix shared that is a stand-alone course focusing on the first year experience. A copy of the plan is attached as official part of the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED that the proposed plan be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Approval for Program Proposal for B.S. In Criminology:** Mr. Barber led the discussion. Dr. McMillan shared that more of our students are interested in criminal justice and adding this program will help better prepare the needs and future of our students. This program is mission centered.

IT WAS MOVED that the proposed program proposal be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Approval for Study Abroad Policy:** Mr. Barber led the discussion. Lander University's policy is to not approve enrolled Lander students for travel to or study in a location where a US Department of State Travel Warning is in effect. Students, faculty leaders, or Study Abroad Committee members can petition the Study Abroad Committee to waive the prohibition. These petitions are reviewed on a program-by-program basis. A copy of the plan in attached as official part of the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED that the proposed policy be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS: Dr. Dee Stone called attention to the report from Governmental Relations, which was distributed earlier. (A copy of the report will be made a part of the official minutes). Dr. Stone highlighted the following:

- Budget request is complete for 2017-2018.
- Lander is coordinating legislative meetings with regional Senators and Representatives.
- Hosted 1st Annual Lander Candidate Forum. This was a very successful event with over 350 in attendance.

FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Dr. Dee Stone called attention to the report from the Finance and Facilities Committee, which had been distributed earlier. (A copy of the report will be made a part of the official minutes).

Dr. Stone stated that the Finance and Facilities Committee has one action item to bring before the Board for approval as a recommendation out of committee. He then presented the following action item:

1. **Proposed Amendment to the FY2016-2017 Budget:** Mr. Greg Lovins shared an update on the budget amendment.

IT WAS MOVED that the proposed budget amendment be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Stone highlighted the following:

- Lander University's financial audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 found the university clear of all findings.
- An update on proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act will be implemented and monitored.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE: Mr. Cary Corbitt called attention to the report from the Office of University Advancement, which had been distributed earlier. (A copy of the report will be made a part of the official minutes.) He then highlighted the following:

- Continue to focus on increasing the number of endowed and funded scholarships.
- University Advancement and Alumni Affairs share a common goal. Increase alumni giving and engagement...
- Focus on increase in the number of donors and donor giving percentages.
- Continued review of policies and procedures that should be in place to govern all fundraising activities.
- Year to date reflects a drop in the month of August compared to last year. This is due to pass through dollars related to the university cheer camps.
- Scholarship Banquet was held on November 3, 2016. George Starnes and Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company sponsored the banquet. This was a successful event.
- Lander Foundation Board of Trustees met on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Dr. Cosentino gave a report on university updates.
- Search for new V.P. for University Advancement is being conducted by search firm of Coleman Lew & Associates. Several candidates have been identified.

- Mr. Van Taylor, Interim Vice President, continues to meet with Dr. Cosentino to discuss important issues that impact both University Advancement and Alumni Affairs.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Mr. Claude Robinson called attention to the report from Student Affairs, which had been distributed earlier. (A copy of the report will be made a part of the official minutes.) He then highlighted the following:

- Great activity in all areas, and Mr. Robinson thanked Vice President for Student Affairs Randy Bouknight and his team for their hard work.
- Three buildings at Brookside have undergone improvement and the remaining buildings are scheduled to receive upgrades by August 2017.
- Wellness Center shared a presentation to meet the increased demand for mental health services, an additional counselor has been employed.
- The Office of Student Activities hosted 33 events through November 16, 2016, with a total attendance of 6066.
- Black history program has 9 events from January – February.
- 54 registered student organizations.
- Habitat for Humanity house project will begin during Homecoming week.
- We have a new bike share program up and running with ten bikes available for students.
- Randy Bouknight shared that we have a new outdoor fire pit located near Centennial Hall, a new Red Box will be coming to campus and we are bringing motorized vehicles/mopeds to campus.
- Randy Bouknight also shared that we hosted a midnight breakfast which was well attended on the third day of exams.

Discussion followed. Dr. Cosentino shared his continued desire to add events and traditions for our students. Anne Walker asked if we had a system in place for left-over food from Aramark for our local non-profits. She is aware that this is big deal at larger universities like University of South Carolina. Mr. Greg Lovins is going to look into that and report back to the Board.

Anne Walker asked about a yearbook and Dr. Cosentino shared that we are going to start an electronic yearbook.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COMMITTEE: Mr. Claude Robinson called attention to the report from Intercollegiate Athletics, which had been distributed earlier. (A copy of the report will be made a part of the official minutes.) Mr. Robinson highlighted the following:

- All coaches are in place and staffing is complete.
- Lander is close to hiring our permanent Athletic Director and Mr. Robinson was thanked for his service to the university in the interim.
- Adding Men's and Women's cross country program.
- Study being conducted for a lacrosse program.
- Mr. Robinson shared his thoughts on the state of our athletics program and how impressed he has been with our program.

ENROLLMENT AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Ms. Holly Bracknell called attention to the report from Enrollment and Access Management, which had been distributed earlier. (A copy of the report will be made a part of the official minutes.) Ms. Bracknell highlighted the following:

- Enrollment report reflects numbers for Spring 2017 at 2324 versus 2121 which is a 9.5% increase over last year
- Andy and his team have implemented a new enrollment report. This report reflects numbers that are up to date on a daily basis.
- Fall 2017 freshman applications: 3285 vs 2079 for the same time last year reflecting a 58% increase.
- Transfer applications are also up 49.4%.
- The Financial Aid office issued fall 2017 aid offers in early December. This will enable students to receive their offers as much as eight months early.
- Lander University has contracted with Study International to increase our international marketing footprint to 14 difference countries across the globe.
- Proud of the work Andy Benoit and his team are doing.

FACULTY SENATE: On behalf of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Jason Lee, Chair of the Faculty Senate, shared the following:

- The faculty have been and continue to be diligently striving to promote and support the success of our students beyond providing high quality classroom instruction. This has been demonstrated by the work of the Lander faculty adopting a Quality

- Enhancement Plan that was discussed earlier today. This is a highly mission-driven initiative.
- The administration identified a need for the restructuring of some academic areas based on “discipline affinity”. The faculty in this department have been heavily involved with the administration in restructuring of those departments. This new college has been named College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.
 - The faculty are optimistic about the projected increase in enrollment for the fall of 2017. Members of the faculty senate have been proactive in preparing to meet the challenges anticipated with this increase in enrollment.
 - Faculty members are also investing in retention efforts to keep talented student here at Lander.
 - Dr. Lee thanked President Cosentino on behalf of the faculty for his leadership in moving Lander forward and more importantly for the manner in which he’s been doing it. He leads Lander with a collective vision shared across the University that demonstrates a value of the faculty’s perspectives and ideas.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS: Chair Lawrence called upon President Cosentino for comments.

Dr. Cosentino echoed Jason Lee’s statement regarding the creation of our new college: College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. We study a lot of universities and gleaned the need to make this adjustment. We appointed Dr. Lucas McMillan as our new dean. We are excited about this change and we had an extensive interview process for this appointment utilizing faculty and students in this process.

Continue to review policies of the university and we will continue to bring new policies forward to the Board of Trustees for approval.

We are continuing our search for the Dean of Business, Dean of Nursing, Athletic Director, Vice President for Advancement and Assistant Vice President for Retention. We are close to making an offer to the Assistant Vice President and Athletic Director. As you know talent acquisition is a challenge for all great institutions. We will continue to strive to hire great talent and wait when necessary to make that great hire.

Our Open House in November was the largest in Landers history with over 1,000 people registered. We are up 60% for Spring 2017. Retention is super important to us and that is why you see growth in student activity and a push to increase campus activities. This is helping us drive retention and student satisfaction.

Our investment dollars are paying off with the investment in Andy Benoit and Admissions.

Continued focus on student health and well-being. We continue to invest in this to keep our students safe. Randy Bouknight’s team is doing a great job and this is a major priority for this administration. We will heavily invest in this next year.

We are introducing Men's and Women's Lacrosse teams and will begin the search for the coach in January. The field is being designed and we will have 3 dorms completely filled next fall. We will host lacrosse and rugby games in the field right near those dorms. We have done a lot of homework on this. We are also bringing Men's and Women's Cross Country back to campus. Athletics exist to support the mission of the university. We are introducing these programs for the richness of these programs not the money.

We have a serious focus on growth and there are serious challenges with growth. Parking, classroom space, etc. These are challenges that we will be navigating.

Dr. Cosentino passed out a handout of our vision, mission and strategic plan. We are working a separate document that will be available on the website. We will use a dashboard as a guideline for our five year plan – our strategic plan. This will contain key metrics that will allow us to measure our progress.

We are going to outsource an auditor that will bring a report to the Board at future meetings.

We touched on our request for state funding. Our requests include monies for an MBA program, a Cybersecurity program, equipment and construction. Thirteen local companies drafted a letter of support for the MBA and Cybersecurity program.

We presented to the Governor's staff and hope that this will reap benefits for us.

The Commission on Higher Education asked our office to make a presentation. They are very interested in Lander's enrollment and branding success.

Received an appointment to Coordinating Council for Workforce Development. They are very interested in our employment center and our close relationship with the local business community.

Dr. Cosentino presented a handout with article publications by our faculty. He would like the Board of Trustees to have an idea of what our faculty do outside of the classroom. Our faculty are doing impressive things. This report covers three years.

We hosted our first ever vice presidents retreat.

We are developing a staff senate and a diversity council. This will allow us to have frank discussion on issues relating to these groups.

Dr. Cosentino passed around pictures of the Brookside Dorm and the renovation taking place on these dorms.

Dr. Cosentino shared his excitement about the future of Lander University and appreciates the Boards continued support.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chair Lawrence shared that each Board Committee should have and utilize the objectives of the vice president. These objectives reflect the strategy of the university.

Chair Lawrence also shared the Board Officers have a monthly conference call with Dr. Cosentino. Dr. Cosentino will share a summary of this call with the full Board to keep everyone abreast of what is happening on campus.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 7, 2017.