

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, September 12, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Don Scott

Other Members of the Board in Attendance:

Robert Barber
Holly Bracknell
John Craig
Linda Dolny
Ray Hunt
Marcia Hydrick
Catherine Lee
Don Lloyd
Peggy Makins
Terry Pruitt
Robert Sabalis
DeWitt Stone
Angela Strickland
Anne Walker

Absent: Jim Shubert

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Jim Colbert, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Joe Greenthal, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Adam Taylor, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Boyd Yarbrough, Vice President for Student Affairs; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics; Todd Gambill, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Deb Nygro, Assistant Director of University Relations and Publications; Sadie Erwin, Executive Assistant to the President; and Graham Duncan, Project Coordinator for University and Governmental Relations.

Guests: Dr. Emily Prince, Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Patrick Moore, Chair of the Staff Senate.

Chair Scott called the meeting to order.

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Walker motioned to approve the June 20, 2023 board meeting minutes; seconded by Robert Sabalis.

The board meeting minutes from June 20, 2023 were approved by unanimous vote.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs

Anne Walker was recognized to share the updates found in the Academic Affairs Committee report. The committee brought forward one action item:

1. Bachelor of Science in Education and Child Development

This proposal will establish a new degree program, pending approval from the proper accrediting bodies. The Bachelor of Science in Education and Child Development will meet the needs of students who are interested in fields related to child development and education but do not wish to become classroom teachers. More information was provided to the Board of Trustees in the Academic Affairs committee report.

Discussion followed.

Terry Pruitt asked if this program would be offered in addition to Lander's existing Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. Jim Colbert confirmed that the proposed program would be offered in addition to that program.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Enrollment and Access Management / Student Experience and Quality Assurance

Holly Bracknell was recognized to share updates from the Enrollment and Access Management / Student Experience and Quality Assurance Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

The committee noted that total enrollment has increased six percent from the same point in the last academic year. Enrollment is also up 63 percent over enrollment at the same point in 2015, when Dr. Richard Cosentino began his tenure as Lander's 12th president.

Additionally, the College of Graduate and Online Studies experienced significant growth this fall, reporting a 26 percent increase in graduate enrollment from the same point in the prior academic year.

C. Finance, Facilities, and Audit / Governmental and Strategic Initiatives

Don Lloyd was recognized to share the updates found in the Academic Affairs Committee report. The committee brought forward one action item:

1. June 30, 2022 Financial Audit

Donald Lloyd referenced the results of the June 30, 2022 Financial Audit, conducted by Clark Eustace Wagner. This audit was completed with an unmodified opinion, or "clean audit." The committee asked the Board of Trustees to accept as information the results of the audit.

Discussion followed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

D. Institutional Advancement

John Craig was recognized to share updates from the Institutional Advancement Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

E. Policy

Robert Sabalis was recognized to share updates from the Policy Committee report. The committee

brought forward no action items.

F. Student Affairs / Intercollegiate Athletics

Ray Hunt was recognized to share updates from the Student Affairs / Intercollegiate Athletics Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

III. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

A. Faculty Senate

Dr. Prince was recognized to give a report from the Faculty Senate.

B. Staff Senate

Patrick Moore was recognized to give a report from the Staff Senate.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The president gave the following updates to the Board of Trustees:

Corporate Partners Program: The president recognized Lloyd Willis to share an update with the Board of Trustees on the growth in graduate student enrollment. Willis said one of the many factors contributing to the increase in online and graduate enrollment is Lander University's Corporate Partnerships Program. The program allows employees from area businesses to earn their bachelor's or master's degrees through online courses and reduced tuition prices.

New Faculty Evaluation Systems: The president recognized Jim Colbert, who shared with the Board of Trustees that Lander University had ended its contract with the previous systems used to conduct faculty and student evaluations. In its place, Lander has invested in a new evaluation system that better fits the needs of the University.

New Student Orientation (Lander Launch): The president recognized Amanda Darden, who shared with the Board of Trustees highlights from Lander Launch, a new orientation program for freshman and transfer students. The program included guest speakers, opportunities to meet peers and faculty members, and a dinner near the amphitheater.

ChatGPT: The president shared that faculty and administration are continuing to learn more about artificial intelligence and large language models, including ChatGPT, and its impacts on higher education.

Governor's Veto Message: The president shared with the Board of Trustees the remarks made by Governor Henry McMaster in his veto message in June of 2023. Of interest were the governor's concerns of the increased spending in higher education and a desire to see colleges and universities better reflect the needs of South Carolina's workforce. The president said that Lander officials will work with the Office of the Governor to address these concerns.

Baptist Collegiate Ministry: The president recognized Scott Smith and Katie Troutman, who serve as director and assistant director, respectively, of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Lander University. Recently the South Carolina Baptist Convention made a significant investment in their student center, which sits adjacent to the University campus. The president thanked them for their work with students, providing them with a sense of belonging and helping them access resources for success at Lander.

Dining Hall Renovations: The president recognized Joe Greenthal, who announced that Lander

University has renewed its contract with Aramark to provide dining services at Lander. As part of the agreement, Aramark will invest in significant renovations to Lander's dining facilities and will rebrand several of their current dining stations. These upgrades will help address the need for more efficient dining services due to the University's continued growth in enrollment, as well as give students greater access to the dining options they desire.

Campus Renovations: The president shared a video with the Board of Trustees, which showed aerial footage of several campus renovation projects. The video included shots of the recently completed Chipley Traffic Circle, the ongoing pool renovation project, the Genesis Hall Plaza, and the sites of the future nursing building and information commons.

Robyn Hoffman: The president introduced Robyn Hoffman, who will assume her duties as Vice President for Advancement at Lander University beginning October 1, 2023. She currently serves as Vice President for Philanthropy at St. Thomas University, in Miami, Florida.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

DeWitt Stone made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment, compensation, promotion, discipline, or release of an employee, student, or person regulated by Lander University; seconded by John Craig.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Board of Trustees returned from executive session at the call of Chair Scott. No action was taken in executive session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Ray Hunt to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Robert Sabalis.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.