

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LANDER UNIVERSITY

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

Tuesday, June 13, 2017
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Jack Lawrence, Chair

Members of the Board in Attendance: Robert Barber
Bobby Bowers
Holly Bracknell
Linda Dolny
Catherine Frederick
Maurice Holloway
Ray Hunt
Marcia Hydrick
Don Lloyd
Claude Robinson
Robert Sabalis
DeWitt Stone
Angela Strickland
Peggy Makins

Via Phone:

Anne Walker
Cathy Lee

Absent:

Cary Corbitt

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; David Mash, 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; Kim English, Vice President for University Advancement; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics; Matt Braaten, Assistant VP for Planning, Analytics & Decision Support.

Guests: Megan Price, Director of University Relations and Publications; Deb Nygro, University Relations and Publications; Ashley Lee, In-coming Chair of Faculty Senate; Jason Lee, Chair of Faculty Senate; and Laura Brown, Governmental Relations.

Chair Lawrence stated for the record that appropriate publicity, 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 by Chair Jack Lawrence who acknowledged and welcomed all guests.

The chair reminded board members of their travel vouchers.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, Sep 18th 4:00 p.m. – State of the University Address

Tuesday, September 19th – September Board Meeting

I. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Bobby Bowers made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, March 22, 2017. Don Lloyd seconded his motion to approve. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

II. **COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Cosentino welcomed the Board and expressed his appreciation for their dedication. He began by stating his priorities, challenges, and current updates for the new fiscal year.

High Priorities: How many students are graduating? Did they go to graduate school? Have they been employed? Was their education useful? Did they incur debt? How long did it take them to graduate?

Lower Priority: Winning ball games, raising money, new buildings, and involvement in the community. These are all priorities but come after the education of our students.

Our metrics are moving in the right direction. Enrollment is up. We are expecting more than 2,925 students in the fall.

Internal challenges: Enrollment, compensation for our faculty and staff, size (are we big enough for the number of students we need to educate in order to be successful and to grow?), up-to-date technology (our nurses cannot learn on yesterday's equipment).

External challenges: Credibility issues, treasury and fundraising challenges.

Enrollment is up! Housing applications are up! Proving Lander's brand is working. We requested \$1.6 million from the State legislature for renovations. This was denied, but Lander must move forward.

Staff and Student Senate: A Staff Senate consisting of 13 non-instructional Lander employees as well as a Student Senate are in development.

Peach Belt Conference: President Cosentino was elected first Vice President, making him next year's president of the Peach Belt Conference.

Naming policy: President Cosentino thanked the board for their help with the policy and Dr. Sabalis for making sure the policy is high quality. The naming policy for buildings is close to completion.

Provost: Some of our SACSCOC issues are library-related; David Mash has a librarian degree and has agreed to assist us in that area. Dr. Ozment will come in July as our interim Provost.

Faculty workload: Matt Braaten has designed decision support charts that identify professors who are qualified to teach certain courses and what their course load includes. This will help Lander prevent overload/underload for professors. We need to be able to identify this for Lander administration and for SACSCOC.

Lander Eclipse events: Megan Varner spoke about the upcoming eclipse. Greenwood is in the path of totality for the full solar eclipse on August 21. Classes are canceled Monday and Lander will host an Eclipse Fest featuring a DJ, inflatables, picnic lunch, space display models, etc. The day will begin with the Faculty opening Convocation with guest speaker Dr. Bob McLaren, Associate Director of the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii. <http://www.lander.edu/features/lander-eclipse-2017>

Vice President for University Advancement: Ms. Kim English was introduced and presented her work history. She expressed her excitement in joining Lander and stated her vision and goals for University Advancement.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs: Robert Barber

Revision of Tenure and Promotion Calendar

Dr. Robert Sabalis requested changes to the Tenure & Promotion Calendar. The action was carried over to the next board meeting.

Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell

Lander surpassed applicant and admit goals for first-time freshman for fall 2017 with the largest applicant class of 4,299 applicants and largest admit class of 2,657. Normal yield is between 32-40% or 850-1,063 students. Last year's class was 608. Our biggest challenge for yield is scholarship availability.

The Academic Advising group was moved to Enrollment and Access Management. Nearly three times the students have visited the Academic Success Center over the past year. The first two sessions of Orientation are full, the third session is 95% full. These are capped at 250 students per session. The Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) pilot program is scheduled for spring of 2018. Lander was awarded \$30 million in federal and state aid for fall 2017.

Governmental Relations: Don Lloyd

Don Lloyd thanked Adam and President Cosentino for their successful work on building relationships. He welcomed Laura Brown to the team.

The General Assembly adjourned on May 11. The Governor's vetoes were announced last night with nothing directly affecting Lander. The new Budget will begin on July 1.

We requested \$250,000 from Greenwood County; while this has not materialized, neither has it been turned down.

Adam is cultivating stronger relationships with the State House and delegation seeking opportunities for federal support.

Lander received \$7,647,698 from the state plus \$146,376 in recurring expense in our base budget, and \$259,785 in Lottery Technology funds. Lander also received \$500,000 to establish the PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) program in conjunction with the Equestrian Center.

The bond bill did not pass. Legislative leadership in House and Senate have expressed a strong desire to pass this and will discuss it again in January when the legislature reconvenes. Under the current bill, Lander will receive up to \$12.5 million from the state.

Money originally designated to Montessori initiative was re-appropriated for repair and renovation projects.

The SC General Assembly approved our request for 17 FTE (Full Time Employee) positions.

Department priority will focus on federal relationships.

Finance and Facilities: Don Lloyd

The following action items were presented:

1. Adoption of the Budget Amendment

Lander's total Enterprise budget was reduced by \$456,394 to reflect the following changes: (a) Auxiliary revenues and expenses were decreased by \$559,000 to recognize actual revenues lower than budgeted revenues; (b) Restricted revenues and expenses were increased by \$107,640 to reflect additional funding from three grants; (c) Designated revenues and expenses were decreased by \$6,348 to account for a decrease in applied music fee revenues; and (d) Educational and General revenues and expenses were reduced by \$1,314 to reflect an increase in stipends.

The recommendation came from the committee. No second was necessary. The vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

2. FY2017-2018 Tuition and Fee Proposal

A motion came from Committee to adopt the Fee schedule for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposal will raise fees needed for the cost of services for certain activities on campus. This proposal includes freezing tuition at \$10,700 and increasing general fees by \$500 (existing fees are \$500). This is a combined cost for in-state undergraduate students of \$11,700.

The housing fee will increase by \$200 and food will increase by \$100. Both fees are reflective of inflationary costs. Specific course fee increases are for nursing, biology, chemistry, computer information, physical education, teaching, education, mass communication, and media studies. Other increases include parking and graduation fees. The equestrian fee will no longer be charged to student accounts. Instead, a fee will be charged as an individual club fee to only participating

students. The deans were especially helpful in research for these increases. Don Lloyd thanked Dean Holisa Wharton of Nursing for her research and help to the Finance committee.

There were no comments or questions. A roll call vote was requested. Chair Lawrence reminded the Board the motion came from committee. No seconds were necessary.

The roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Voting “yes” were: Jack Lawrence, Robert Barber, Bobby Bowers, Holly Bracknell, Dr. Lina Dolny, Cathy Frederick, Maurice Holloway, Ray Hunt, Marcia Hydrick, Don Lloyd, Claude Robinson, Robert Sabalis, DeWitt Stone, Angela Strickland, Peggy Makins, Anne Walker, Cathy Lee.

There were no abstentions or “no” votes.

3. FY2017-2018 Budget Proposal

The budget is based on an enrollment of 2,925 students and passage of the new fee schedule. It reflects a conservative revenue projection. The Finance and Facilities committee recommends that the budget be adopted. Included in this proposal is a 2% mandatory retirement increase and health insurance for state employees. Also included is funding for outsourced internal audit function.

Chair Lawrence asked for discussion and approval from the Board. No discussion followed.

The budget proposal passed unanimously

4. Internal Auditor Recommendation

The finance staff has selected Cherry Bekaert LLP, based in Charlotte with an office in Greenville. Chair Lawrence invited questions and comments and stated the importance of this role. Mr. Lovins clarified that Lander would begin working with Cherry Bekaert LLP in July. The contract is 1 year and is renewable. President Cosentino clarified that Cherry Bekaert LLP will assess our risks, interview faculty, recommend security measures, checks and balances, and internal controls. By September, there will be an audit plan and updates can be given at the next meeting. It was questioned if the foundation would be a part of the same contract. Mr. Lovins reminded the Board that the foundation is a separate entity. They have to enter into their own contract. Lander’s intention is for them to use this auditor as well.

The motion came from committee, no second was required. The motion carried unanimously with one abstention. Claude Robinson abstained from vote in full transparency since his daughter is a CPA at this firm.

Institutional Advancement: Marcia Hydrick

Marsha Hydrick welcomed Ms. Kim English, inviting her to discuss updates and her 6-month plan. Retiring members of the Foundation Board include Jan Smoke, Don Scott, Brent Parris, Wayne Carstens, and Wes McAlister. The incoming chair is A.R. Charnes effective July 1, 2017. Events held were in Charlotte, Elberton, Columbia, Upstate. Upcoming events include Pawleys Island and Charleston, and the Lander Golf Tournament June 27.

Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Claude Robinson

Mr. Robinson thanked Randy Bouknight and Brian Reese for their help and hard work.

Student Affairs:

Applications for paid housing is up 22% compared to last year. There are 64 registered student organizations on campus. Campus activity involvement numbers have increased. There are 29 equestrian students and 124 campus events

Athletic Report:

The team GPA is 3.14. Of our athletes, 59% have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Average student body GPA is 2.87. Average student athlete GPA is 3.07. Selling beer at baseball games has been well received. We are negotiating with local radio for game broadcasting. Northwestern Mutual is placing 20 student athletes in internship programs

RECESS: Chair Lawrence called a 5-minute Recess. After returning to session, Chair Lawrence requested to alter the agenda slightly.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS**Nominating Committee Report – election of officers**

The nominating committee included Don Lloyd, Marcia Hydrick, and Robert Barber. Don Lloyd listed the committee's nomination recommendations for the upcoming slate of officers:

Linda Dolny, Chair
Cary Corbitt, Vice Chair
Cathy Lee, Secretary

Chair Lawrence asked the Board at this time for any additional nominations. There were none.

A vote was taken and the slate passed unanimously.

Linda Dolny thanked the Board for their trust and looks forward to serving as the new Chair. She would like to meet with each Board member face to face before September meeting if possible. She will be in touch.

Cathy Lee thanked the board and welcomed the opportunity to serve.

Faculty Senate: Ashley Lee

Ms. Lee discussed a faculty Senate retreat, the senate working to reduce the required hours in the General Education program, LINK course development (LINK stands Leading, Involvement, Networking, and Knowledge) and the faculty gearing up to take on the challenge of upcoming students

Special Presentation: Dr. Cosentino

On behalf of the University, President Dr. Cosentino presented Jack Lawrence with an engraved chair noting his years of service as Chair of Lander University Board of Trustees from June 2013 -

June 2017. Chair Lawrence's portrait was also placed on the wall of the Boardroom along with preceding Chairs.

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Bobby Bowers made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ray Hunt. Personnel issues were discussed. Bobby Bowers made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Maurice Holloway.

The board returned to open session. Chair Lawrence made a motion that the salary supplement for Dr. Cosentino, paid by the Lander Foundation be increased by \$35,000 starting July 1, 2017. This has already been approved by the Lander Foundation. Dee Stone seconded this.

The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Bobby Bowers made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Maurice Holloway. The motion carried unanimously, meeting was adjourned.