

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 5, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Don Scott

Other Members of the Board in Attendance:

Holly Bracknell
John Craig
Ray Hunt
Marcia Hydrick
Don Lloyd
Peggy Makins
Terry Pruitt
Robert Sabalis
Angela Strickland
Anne Walker

Absent: Robert Barber, Linda Dolny, Catherine Lee, Jim Shubert, and DeWitt Stone.

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Jim Colbert, 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; Robyn Hoffman, Vice President of University Advancement; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Megan Price, Assistant Vice President of University Relations and Publications; Sadie Erwin, Executive Assistant to the President; and Graham Duncan, Project Coordinator for University and Governmental Relations.

Guests: Lindsey Hodges, of the Index-Journal; and Dr. Emily Prince, Chair of the Faculty 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 December 12, 2023 board meeting minutes; seconded by Robert Sabalis.

The board meeting minutes from December 12, 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 two action items:

1. Policy for the Determination of Course Level in Relation to New or Revised Courses

This provides an addition of course amount and level guidelines, and other related revisions and updates to the *Policies and Procedures for New Academic Programs, Program Modifications, and Program Terminations* process document.

Course Level Policy

Lander University identifies courses with numbering that labels undergraduate courses as 100s, 200s, 300s, and 400s. Lower division or introductory 100/200-level courses are typically taken during the freshman and sophomore year. More advanced upper division 300/400-level undergraduate courses are typically taken during the sophomore, junior, and senior years. Graduate courses are numbered 500 to 800. The course levels for undergraduate and graduate courses indicate the level of content knowledge or skills expected of students entering the course and the levels of knowledge and skills that the course and its student learning outcomes are designed to produce.

Course Level Policy Oversight

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee is charged with following the policy on course level in its review and approval of all courses and in certifying that the expected student learning in the course meets the course level standard. The determination of course level is made when a new course or a modification to an existing course is proposed.

Discussion followed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Substantive Change Policy Revision for SACSCOC Compliance

Substantive Change Policy statements have historically resided in the *Policies and Procedures for New Academic Programs, Program Modifications, and Program Terminations* process document at Lander University. In preparation for the next decennial accreditation review by SACSCOC in 2027, we have developed a broader institutional substantive change policy to be formatted and published on the Lander University Policy webpage. The new document improves our ability to demonstrate compliance with SACSCOC standards.

Discussion followed.

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 the number of committed students for the Fall 2024 semester is higher than at the same time one year prior. The committee also noted the hard work of the Office of Admissions team to maintain a connection with admitted and committed students through digital and direct mail strategies. Dr. Amanda Darden noted that the retention for the university is 3 percent higher than at the same time one year prior, and that the Student Success Center is working closely with departments to build extra layers of support for struggling students to assist with the

university's retention efforts.

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

Don Lloyd was recognized to share the updates found in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit, and Governmental and Strategic Initiatives Committee reports. The committee brought forward no action items.

The committee noted that Lander is working with other colleges and universities to monitor over 80 pieces of legislation that have been submitted to the General Assembly this legislative session.

D. Institutional Advancement

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

The committee shared photos from the recent "Polar Plunge" performed by the president and members of Lander's student body in February. This event raised over \$75,000 for student scholarships.

E. Policy

Robert Sabalis was recognized to share updates from the Policy Committee report. The committee brought forward one action item:

1. Email Use Policy

This policy is a revision of an existing policy, and establishes compliance requirements for conducting Lander University business through email and the management practices that support email services.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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.

The committee noted the stellar GPA averages among student athletes (3.365), as well as the national rankings of several Lander teams, including Bass Fishing, Wrestling, Men's Golf, Men's Tennis, Men's Basketball, and Men's Lacrosse. The committee also noted the hard work of the university's CARE Team, which works closely with individual students following referrals by faculty and staff. To date, the CARE Team has followed up on 329 referrals.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Strategic Plan: The president presented an updated version of Lander University's strategic plan. This update took into consideration questions and comments received by the University's stakeholders. The new strategic plan includes six key pillars the university will focus on through 2030. These pillars are:

1. Academic Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service
2. Student Success
3. Communicate the Value of Lander University

4. Initiate and Conclude a Comprehensive Advancement Campaign
5. Create a University Culture and Environment of Continuous Improvement
6. Student Outcomes

The president asked for approval of this strategic plan.

The motion to approve the presented strategic plan was made by Robert Sabalis; seconded by Ray Hunt.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

South Carolina Institute on the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses: The president introduced board members to Matthew Hammett, who was named the Inaugural Director of the South Carolina Institute on the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses. Hammett gave an update of the initiatives he has been working on since being named to this position, which have included building a coalition of community partners at other colleges and universities, as well as nonprofit leaders. A grant program has also been established to provide money to institutions for the purposes of implementing programming related to peer education, healthy relationships, sexual violence awareness, and prevention training.

Facilities and Maintenance Projects: The president asked Joe Greenthal to provide board members with an update on the University’s active projects, which together total \$37.5 million in funding for pending projects. Greenthal also shared a list of completed projects, which total \$6.5 million in funding.

Legislative Updates: The president asked Adam Taylor to share updates on the university’s legislative requests for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee recommended the following amounts:

House Ways and Means Committee Recommendations for FY 2024-25	
Tuition Mitigation	\$2,443,405
Carnell Learning Center Renovation	\$2,500,000
Genesis Hall Renovation	\$3,000,000

Lander University is working with members of the South Carolina Senate to request increases to the funding recommended by the House of Representatives, and to seek funding for maintenance, renovation, and replacement.

Capital Project Sales Tax: As part of his update, Adam Taylor also shared with board members that he, Robyn Hoffman, and Joe Greenthal have submitted a grant application for Greenwood County’s pending Capital Project Sales Tax. If the application is accepted by Greenwood County and the sales tax is renewed by voters at the November 2024 general election, Lander University will use funding it receives to renovate aspects of the sports complex. These renovations will include replacing the walking track, paving parking lots, upgrading IT infrastructure, and installing new lighting and cameras for safety and security.

Graduate and Online Studies: The president asked Dr. Lloyd Willis to share updates from the College of Graduate and Online Studies, who called attention to the number of graduates who received master’s degrees at the university’s Fall 2023 Commencement ceremonies. The College of Graduate and Online Studies has already filled these open spots in its programs with new graduate students. Willis said this is in part due to relationships with 20 corporate partners, who recommend

Lander's online and graduate programs to their employees. The university is also partnering with government agencies and non-profit organizations, who receive a special tuition rate. As Lander prepares to launch an online Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice, the program will offer a convenient and affordable education to law enforcement partners, many of whom signed letters of support for the program.

College of Business Accreditation: The president shared that accreditors from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) recently concluded their visit to Lander University's College of Business. They will soon make a determination on Lander's reaccreditation.

Institutional Data Collection: The president asked Matt Braaten to share an update on how the university collects, maintains, and reports data on students, faculty, and staff. Braaten and his team have streamlined Lander's data collection and reporting efforts so that university administrators have up-to-date information on student enrollment, retention, and faculty contracts, among other things.

IV. 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 unable to attend the meeting of the Board of Trustees. His report was provided to board members in writing.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed by unanimous vote.