

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Tuesday, December 17, 2019
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Linda Dolny

Members of the Board in Attendance:

Angela Strickland
Anne Walker
Cary Corbitt
DeWitt Stone
Don Lloyd
Don Scott
Robert Sabalis
Holly Bracknell
Jack Lawrence
John Craig
Marcia Hydrick
Peggy Makins
Ray Hunt
Robert Barber

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Scott Jones, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Adam Taylor, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Stacie Bowie, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Boyd Yarbrough, Vice President for Student Affairs; 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: Lois Eustace, Clark Eustace Wagner; Dr. Mandy Cleveland, Faculty Senate Chair; Tracy Clifton, Staff Senate Chair; Laura Brown, University Relations; Deb Nygro, University Relations; Jenifer Mathis, Executive Director of Admissions; Michelle Lodato, Director of Student Financial Aid.

Linda Dolny called the meeting to order and stated for the record that appropriate publicity in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act had been disseminated and that this meeting is in compliance with that Act.

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, December 18th 11:00 am – December Commencement

Tuesday, March 10th – Next Board Meeting

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Walker motioned to approve the September 10 minutes with the correction made by Linda Dolny; Jack Lawrence seconded the motion. The September 10 minutes were approved unanimously.

Cary Corbitt motioned to approve the minutes of the called meeting on September 24 via conference call with the correction made by DeWitt Stone; Ray Hunt seconded the motion. The September 24 minutes were approved unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Cosentino shared graphs with the Board that demonstrated the success of the current pricing strategy. Over the last four years, Lander University freshmen enrollment has increased by 69%, along with a 19% increase in total enrollment. Professors at Lander have taken the initiative to make their classes more affordable to students by using low-cost and no-cost learning materials. Lander University ranks the highest among our peer institutions for number of professors that implement affordable learning materials in their classes.

The Lander University Honors College enrollment grew 28% from Fall 2018 to Fall 2019, and has grown 79% since Fall 2017.

Lander will not be successful if it does not properly compensate its employees. Faculty salary floors were raised, and staff pay will be increased to address salary compression issues. Increases range up to 17%. All full-time employees will receive a 2% increase in July 2020. All full-time staff (excluding vice presidents and deans) received a \$600 bonus in November 2019.

Continuing search for a dean for the College of Business, a dean for the College of Arts and Humanities, a vice president for Enrollment Management, and a chief information officer.

III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Linda Dolny asked for unanimous consent to move her comments after the auditor’s report on the meeting agenda. Chair Dolny shared information with the Board about President Cosentino’s role in the higher education community. Dr. Cosentino is the SACSCOC vice president, and he was appointed chair of its Peer-Review Advisory Board. Dr. Cosentino is the current vice president of the Peach Belt Conference and will become its president in July 2020. Dr. Cosentino was reappointed by Governor McMaster to the workforce development effort to represent all comprehensive universities in the state.

Lander’s Physical Education and Exercise Science (PEES) program has been recognized as among the top 25 in the country.

Chair Dolny requested for the vice presidents to include a one-page dashboard (series of graphs) in their board reports. Dashboards should display a summary of changes since 2014.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs: Robert Barber

1. **Adoption of New General Education Curriculum**

Motion comes from committee, no second is required. All approved. Motion approved unanimously.

2. **Approval of Emphases:**

- Bachelor of Science – Business Administration (Hospitality Management, Sports Management, and Information Technology Management)
- Bachelor of Science – History (Public History)

Motion comes from committee, no second is required. All approved. Motion approved unanimously.

3. **Faculty Handbook Changes**

Motion comes from committee, no second is required. All approved. Motion approved unanimously.

Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell

No action items

Finance and Audit/Governmental Affairs: Don Lloyd

Lois Eustace of the Clark Eustace Wagner CPA firm made a presentation on the 2019 audit. A copy of the audit was given to all Board members.

1. **2019 Financial Audit Report**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the 2019 financial audit report. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

2. **FY 2020-2021 Tuition & General Fee Proposal**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the FY 2020-2021 tuition and general fee proposal that will keep tuition and general fees frozen at the current rate. A roll call vote is required. In favor: Angela Strickland, Anne Walker, Cary Corbitt, DeWitt Stone, Don Lloyd, Don Scott, Robert Sabalis, Holly Bracknell, Jack Lawrence, John Craig, Marcia Hydrick, Peggy Makins, Ray Hunt, Robert Barber. There was no opposition to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **FY 2020-2021 Special Rates Proposal**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the special rates proposal. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

4. **FY 2020-2021 Housing Rate Proposal**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval for the FY 2020-2021 housing rate proposal. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

5. **FY 2020-2021 Food Service Rate Proposal**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval for the FY 2020-2021 food service proposal. No second is required. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

Institutional Advancement: John Craig

No action items

Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics: Ray Hunt

No action items

Fall 2019 housing occupancy is at 99.4%. Athletics hired an acrobatics and tumbling coach. The Harlem Globetrotters are coming to the Finis Horne Arena on January 7, 2020.

V. UNIVERSITY POLICIES: Matt Braaten

- 1. Relocation Reimbursement**
- 2. CARE Team Intervention Authority**
- 3. University-Initiated Student Medical Leave**

Don Lloyd motioned to approve the three policies presented to the Board of Trustees; seconded by Bob Sabalis. All approved. The policies were passed unanimously.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Faculty Senate: Dr. Mandy Cleveland

The Faculty Senate expresses its profound thanks and gratitude to Dr. Cosentino and his cabinet for the significant increases to faculty compensation, for their scope, and for the swiftness of their implementation. Faculty are also grateful for the increase in funding of faculty development grants and the additional travel stipend that will be granted to faculty award winners. These improvements have increased morale among all categories of faculty. They demonstrate that Lander is an employer of choice who provides fair and competitive compensation.

Staff Senate Report: Tracy Clifton

In an effort to boost morale and staff recognition, staff will receive birthday cards signed by the Staff Senate beginning in January 2020. The Professional Development Committee is currently exploring opportunities for additional local perks for Lander employees. Lander University staff have seen an increase in staff attendance during Staff Senate meetings. Guest speakers have been included in recent meetings to inform senators about campus updates and community outreach. Guest include Career Services representatives, whom assumed responsibility from Financial Aid for the process of hiring student workers. Community guest speakers include Lara Hudson and Ryan Thomas from the City of Greenwood and Hannah Gantt from United Way.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ray Hunt made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment of a Lander employee and to receive an update on a matter; seconded by Don Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

The board returned to open session; no decisions were made in the Executive Session.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Jack Lawrence motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bob Sabalis. The motion was unanimously approved.