

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Linda Dolny

Members of the Board in Attendance:

Angela Strickland
Anne Walker
Cary Corbitt
Cathy Lee
DeWitt Stone
Don Lloyd
Robert Sabalis
Holly Bracknell
Jack Lawrence
John Craig
Robert Barber

Via phone:

Don Scott
Marcia Hydrick
Peggy Makins
Ray Hunt

Absent:

Maurice Holloway

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: Courtney Laster, State Ethics Commission; Jonathan Limehouse, Index Journal; Dr. Mandy Cleveland, Faculty Senate Chair; Tracy Clifton, Staff Senate Chair; Laura Brown, University Relations; Deb Nygro, University Relations; Jennifer 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:

Saturday, April 18th – The Drop

Tuesday, May 12th – Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesday, May 13th – Spring Commencement

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Walker motioned to approve the December minutes. Seconded by Cary Corbitt. The December minutes were approved unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Current Lander University enrollment is 3,227 students. To scale properly for Lander’s current academic space and faculty size, the President proposed an enrollment goal of 3,250-3,300 students for the fall 2020 semester. Lander is predicted to again have 100% housing capacity in fall of 2020.

This spring, Lander University will host a signing agreement with Greenville Tech at the University Center of Greenville. The agreement will allow students who have earned a 2-year degree from Greenville Tech to complete 2 additional years of study at and graduate from Lander University.

The President announced Todd Gambill as Lander University’s new Vice President for Enrollment & Access Management. Dr. Gambill will begin on March 16. Dr. Mark Rollins was selected as the new Dean for Arts and Humanities; he will begin on July 7. The President announced that Abdallah Haddad will join the Lander University’s executive team on May 1 as Chief Information & Technology Officer. Lander is also recruiting a Director of Marketing and a Director of Military and Veteran Services.

Lander University has taken precautions for COVID-19. A pandemic response team was formed and holds regular conference calls with DHEC and the CDC. The response team has prepared the university not only for the current pandemic situation, but also for more common situations such as inclement weather. Lander recently suspended study abroad programs for students who were in countries that were under a Level 3 travel advisory. Students and employees who traveled to infected areas over spring break were asked to visit the Wellness Center upon their return to campus. Classrooms are being sanitized regularly. The university has maintained frequent communication with the campus community regarding updates on COVID-19 and the university’s plan of action via campus email and the university COVID-19 webpage. University Relations created the COVID-19 section on the webpage to house all messages to campus, education on the virus, and important links to keep the Lander community informed and safe. At this time, no cases have been reported on campus, and campus life has resumed as normal. Faculty and staff have begun to make preparations for online/ distance learning.

Lander made its budget presentation to the S.C. House of Representatives on January 14, 2020 and will present to the S.C. Senate on March 12. Adam Taylor briefed the board on the details of the upcoming Senate presentation.

Mike Worley updated the board on progress at the Lander Foundation. Where the Foundation was previously reactive, it is now proactive, and data-driven. Record-keeping of alumni profiles has been

restructured, resulting in deeper relationships with alumni and donors. Recent annual fundraiser (e.g., Lander Giving Day, Giving Tuesday, and targeting mailing) were very successful.

Brian Reese announced that both the men's and women's basketball teams won the Peach Belt Conference. Lander's women's team is the number one team in the region. Lander was selected to host the Women's NCAA Regional for the Southeast. The men's team will play at Lincoln Memorial University.

The board meeting in May will include a brief retreat to focus on the strategic plan.

III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Dolny took a moment to remember former board member Bobby Bowers, who passed away earlier this month.

Chair Dolny requested board members to complete Title IX training online before the next board meeting.

Lander University Board of Trustees who represent congressional district 1-7 participated in the legislative screening process on February 24, 2020. Lander received positive feedback from legislators during Board of Trustees screening. Chair Dolny thanked board members for being involved and informed about Lander current events. After reviewing Lander University Board of Trustee meeting minutes, a member of the Screening Committee commented that many board votes resulted in unanimous approval. The member asked if sufficient discussion has taken place before the recorded votes.

The board often has active discussions that often results in unanimous decisions. Chair Dolny encouraged each board member to express comments prior to making his or her vote.

IV. Ethics Training – Courtney Laster

Reviewed with the Board the process for completing the Statement of Economic Interest, complaint process, hearing process, and advisory opinions.

Statement of Economic Interest must be filed by March 30.

V. Motion to Amend Agenda

Jack Lawrence motioned to amend the meeting agenda to move the Executive Session before the committee reports. Seconded by Robert Barber. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Don Lloyd made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter; seconded by Robert Barber. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board returned to open session. Don Lloyd motioned that the board authorize the board's legal counsel to remain in the Executive Session during the discussion regarding the legal matter. Seconded by Robert Barber. A show of hands was requested. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs: Robert Barber

1. Programmatic Name Change – From Mass Communications to Media and Communications

Motion comes from committee, no second is required. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Bachelor of Science, Health Promotion and Wellness – adding a Genetic Counselor Emphasis**
Motion comes from committee, no second is required. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Audit/Governmental Affairs: Don Lloyd

1. **Resolution of the Board of Trustees for execution of a lease modification**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval for execution of a lease modification. No second is required. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Approval of lease modification for athletic complex**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval of the lease modification for the athletic complex. No second is required. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Request gifting of American Legion building from the Lander Foundation**

A motion comes from committee to seek Board of Trustees approval for Lander University to request gifting of the American Legion building from the Lander Foundation to the university. No second is required. Motion passed unanimously.

Institutional Advancement: John Craig

No action items.

Enrollment and Access Management: Holly Bracknell

No action items. Enrollment is on track with applications and admitted students.

Student Affairs/Intercollegiate Athletics – Cathy Lee

No action items. Lander University's first Ring Ceremony will be held March 19. Music for Meals will take place on April 25 as a fundraising effort to support the establishment of a campus food pantry.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES: Matt Braaten

1. **Tuition Assistance Policy**

Robert Sabalis motioned to approve the Tuition Assistance Policy; seconded by John Craig. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Faculty Senate: Dr. Mandy Cleveland

Due to a time constraint, the report will be emailed to board members on March 11.

Staff Senate Report: Tracy Clifton

Due to a time constraint, the report will be emailed to board members on March 11.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Jack Lawrence motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by John Craig. The motion passed unanimously.