

Report from Board of Visitors Meeting, September 11, 2020 **Lee Millar Bidwell, Faculty Representative to the BOV**

The Board of Visitors met via Zoom on Friday September 11 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in accordance with the Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of the Virginia General Assembly, which permits electronic meetings when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-147.17.

- Click [here](#) for the complete meeting agenda.
- Click here for a list of the [2020-2021](#) members of the BOV [Note: The Governor reappointed all of the Board members who served in the 2019-20 academic year.]
- Click [here](#) for access to the complete Board materials
- The written report I submitted is the last item in the Consent Agenda of the [Board materials](#) (p. 28-29).

Rector's Welcome and Consent Agenda

- Rector Hansen opened the meeting remarking on the importance of the social justice movement across the country, noting how happy he is in the renaming of buildings on campus to reflect diversity and to honor important leaders in the community.
- He also noted that he is “excited about the enrollment picture” and that Longwood is “well-positioned” for the future.
- Rector Hansen moved the approval of the Consent Agenda, with the exception of the proposed fee schedule “as previously agreed upon by Board members.”
- The Consent Agenda was approved.
- When I asked why the fee schedule had been removed from the Consent Agenda, President Reveley said that the BOV wants to have a longer, separate discussion about devising a standard process for establishing tuition, and room and board fees so that they “don’t come as a surprise to students.” Provost Smith added that Academic Affairs also wants to examine course fees as well.

President's Report

- President Reveley began by noting that the date was September 11. Our current student body was born in the “shadow of 9-11 and for most this is the first election they can vote in.”
- He said he is proud of how well the students are handling the COVID-19 health and safety protocol, demonstrating great maturity.
- He also expressed that he is grateful to faculty “who, under adversity, are working with ingenuity and resolve.”
- He further noted that he is “grateful” to the Town of Farmville, saying the relationship between the town and campus has been strengthened in responding to the pandemic.
- The NCAA, Commonwealth, and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) have been good sources of wisdom regarding the science and facts surrounding COVID-19.

- He thanked the Vice Presidents and the BOV for their “rock solid” leadership during the health crisis.

Discussion Regarding COVID-19

- Unlike traditional BOV meetings, the Vice-Presidents did not submit written reports. Instead, the VPs along with other campus leaders gave verbal reports regarding how their area planned for and is addressing COVID-19 challenges.
- **Vice President and Chief of Staff Justin Pope** reminded the Board of the preparations that were made for the fall semester. He said they took a 3 pronged approach: 1. He led a COVID-19 Task Force to ensure everyone across campus was talking with each other and sharing information; 2. Matt McGregor led an Incident Command Team to deal with issues on campus; and 3. A Quarantine Support Team was developed to help students in quarantine get necessary resources and be able to continue their academics.
- He said we have a “system that can accommodate cases that develop over the semester” and he “feels good about how we are aggressively quarantining students” to stop community spread. He said that because students who are potentially exposed to a case of COVID-19 are tested and quarantined, when they get their test results back in 1 to 2 days they already have been out of the general student population for several days. He said “When we do have positive cases, we’re aggressively working with VDH to identify people who are contact exposed. For the most part we are not finding large numbers of people who are contact exposed, which is good for two reasons. One it keeps our quarantine numbers manageable. It’s also just a sign that our overall public health behaviors and precautions are working very well. If you had a campus where people were not wearing masks, where they were not social distancing, where the classrooms were not set up, if you had a positive case then you would expect to see multiple numbers of people contact exposed because of that case. Fortunately we haven’t had a lot of that in most instances.”
- Next **Matt McGregor, Associate Vice President for Wellness and Auxiliary Services**, said that we are off to a really good start to the semester. Although we expected positive cases and we have some, we have “kept the numbers manageable” for several reasons: good planning over the summer using expertise across campus; the demographics and geography of Farmville; our relationship with VDH; a little luck; and students have embraced the information and policies sent to them over the summer.
- He reported that students are asking good questions about how to maintain their student organization activities following COVID-19 safety protocol.
- He then explained the quarantine process in place. He noted that LU contracts with Potomac Health Solutions for our student health center. The quarantine process begins with contact with the Student Health Center, which offers phone triage, telehealth visits, and in-person visits. COVID-19 positive cases come to the attention of the University in several ways: 1. The University Health Center reports cases of faculty, staff, and students who call them with potential symptoms; 2. Students who reach out to faculty or staff reporting symptoms are directed to the University Health Center; 3. Centra Walk-in clinic and Centra Southside hospital notify us of any Longwood faculty, staff, or students who

test positive; and 4. VDH notifies the institution if they get results of those who are positive or who have contact exposure.

- Regarding our testing protocol, he said we are following CDC and VDH guidelines for testing those who are symptomatic or contact exposed. We have a “liberal testing policy.” If a student reports any symptoms, even if they are likely allergies, they get tested.
- We have “good resources on campus to help maintain low community spread.”
- Test results are coming back in 1-2 days.
- Contact tracing also is important. All providers at the University Health Center are certified contact tracers. Longwood begins informal contact tracing at original intake to implement quarantine quickly.
- Students who test positive are being housed in ARC. Those who have been contact exposed also can be housed in ARC, but if their roommates also are contact exposed they may remain in their regular housing.
- There is student support for student’s physical, mental, and academic well-being.
- Rector Hansen commended the work of all those involved and said that he knows of no other university that has done things as well as Longwood.
- **Dean of Students Jennifer Fraley** reported on the ways students are supported if they are isolated or quarantined. She explained that every student isolation and quarantine triggers a Care Team case. Resources are offered through RCL, the Academic Deans, and Dr. Jennifer Green notifies faculty. A point-person is assigned to coordinate resources for those students.
- Rector Hansen asked if students who have tested positive are separated in ARC from those who are quarantined because of contact exposure but have no symptoms. Matt McGregor replied that there is thought put into where students are placed in ARC. However, students who are isolated or quarantined in ARC are not to leave their room so it is not essential that positive cases are housed on separate floors from those who are asymptomatic contact exposed.
- Rector Hansen said that as flu season begins there may be more students who are awaiting test results because flu symptoms are similar to COVID-19 symptoms. He asked if there is enough housing for students awaiting test results as more students are tested. Matt McGregor said there is; Longwood Village is the back-up facility if ARC is full, although it poses more logistical challenges.
- In response to a question from Board member Nadine Marsh-Carter, Mr. McGregor said that universities are sharing information and best practices with each other to learn from each other. Each campus has its own unique challenges and issues but lessons can be learned from other institutions as well. He also said “we are learning as we go” and refining and revising practices as necessary.
- **Provost Smith** began her report by noting good news amongst all the challenges. She said Nursing has an incoming class of 83 students, their largest class ever, and they again had a 100% NCLEX pass rate this year. The Cormier Honors College, under the leadership of Dr. Chris Cook, has 122 incoming students this year for a total of 412

students in the program—the largest enrollment ever. Graduate enrollment is strong, with 360 students. Provost Smith noted that the revised MBA program launched this year has 209 students enrolled, which is a 596% increase from last year. Allen Hall is beautiful and provides excellent classroom space as well as office space for CAFÉ and DEC. LOTI was offered this summer to get all faculty ready for online parts of teaching this semester.

- Of the approximately 1300 classes offered this semester, 20% are fully online or hybrid in response to faculty accommodations; 30-35% of classes are “in-person blended with technology” due to social distancing and classroom size limits; and 45-50% are fully in person.
- Over the summer physical spaces were adapted. Updated webcams were placed in all classrooms, seating was marked 6-8 feet apart, larger spaces such as Blackwell and Jarman were set up for classroom use. Department chairs solicited information to prioritize courses that were most important to keep intact for fully face-to-face instruction. Classes with 48 or more students are either all online or in a larger teaching space.
- Classroom cleaning protocol were put in place and clear face masks were ordered for those disciplines where seeing faces is essential, such as Modern Languages and Communication Sciences and Disorders.
- The Provost applauded faculty for the hard work and ingenuity they have demonstrated in meeting the challenges posed this semester. She noted examples were provided in my Board report, but also pointed specifically to the Music Department faculty, chaired by Dr. Lisa Kinzer, who worked diligently all summer to identify ways to safely be able to teach their discipline. She also thanked Dr. David Shoenthal, Dr. JoEllen Pederson, and Dr. Phillip Poplin who worked all summer to mark off classroom seating and she recognized the many efforts of all those in Environmental Health and Safety.
- Board member Richshawn Adkins Roane thanked faculty for all of their hard work and creativity.
- Rector Hansen applauded all of the innovation Longwood has demonstrated and suggested perhaps we could share some of what we have done and learned to help the local public schools.
- **Director of Athletics Michelle Meadows** reported that late last spring she asked Senior Associate Athletics Director Rick Canter to put together a team to develop a plan for what athletics could look like when Longwood reopened. This team drew heavily from the [NCAA Resocialization of Collegiate Sport](#) document.
- Longwood athletics is following social distancing and mask wearing, sanitizing protocol, and limiting equipment sharing. Athletes and coaches are doing daily self-checks using the “team builder” app and the department is working with University Health if any athlete is showing symptoms.
- They began educating student athletes in late summer regarding health protocols and healthy behavior.
- They continue to monitor guidance from the NCAA and other agencies.

- Coaches have been very “adaptable, nimble, creative, and have embraced responsibility.”
- Nadine Marsh-Carter asked who decides whether there will be a basketball season and when that decision will be made. Ms. Meadows said there are 3 levels of decision making. First the NCAA will make policies regarding the first date of the season nationally and the number of contests that can be played. Individual conferences make decisions about whether they will engage in conference and/or non-conference play. Each institution also decides whether their teams will compete.
- **Courtney Hodges, Vice President for Institutional Advancement**, reported that the virus is teaching her team about raising money in trying times. They are learning how donors respond to virtual visits and economic insecurity. They are beginning to see what works best. They want to be compassionate in all their messaging.
- Donors are continuing to show interest in investing in scholarships—particularly in nursing and teacher preparation—and planned estate gifts.
- Her office is “keeping their eye on annual giving, which the area most likely to be affected long-term.”
- Their jobs are “different and difficult” but they are “still making progress.”
- **Victoria Kindon, Vice President for Strategic Operations**, reported that her unit worked with the over 100 students who requested fully online courses for the semester to adjust their schedules.
- Last spring all campus visits were moved to a virtual format. This summer campus tours were given in small groups. Most visits are virtual. Additionally college fairs in high schools have been canceled. Despite these changes she said we are “well positioned” for recruiting the incoming class of 20201 because (1) they began making adjustments to the admissions and recruiting process early, and (2) the common application has generated an excellent e-mail pool of prospects to contact.
- This year’s “melt” (87 students) was lower than in 2019 (91 students), but higher than 2018 (83 students).
- Admissions has rebranded the summer decision program to an “accelerated decision” and that process will be continued through the fall.
- Admissions will continue to do small group in-person tours.
- The economic uncertainty families are experiencing is an on-going concern. Students who submit a FAFSA usually “yield well.” In 2018, 28% of students who submitted a FAFSA to Longwood attended; in 2019, 27% of FAFSA submitting students came to Longwood; this year only 21% of FAFSA submitting students came to Longwood. Ms. Kindon said that fewer students who file a FAFSA are going to 4-year institutions; more are choosing to attend a community college, at least for the first 2 years.
- Longwood is reaching out to and doing all they can to help students in need.
- **Louise Waller, Vice President for Administration and Finance**, reported that “financially, we are doing okay.” There is still uncertainty around the state budget, but enrollment is holding steady. We must watch our COVID-related expenses as we had budgeted \$1.3 million, but are likely to see a “6-figure increase in those costs this year.”

- Environmental Health and Safety and the Procurement offices have experienced challenges getting supplies, but have successfully obtained 10,000 face coverings and 500 gallons of sanitizer.
- Over the summer HVAC was inspected to ensure clean air. 3000 HVAC filters were replaced. Building monitoring systems have been adjusted so that they are more sensitive.
- The Budd Groups is doing a good job of training housekeeping staff and following best cleaning practices.
- Facilities had to modify 180 classrooms and over 2000 signs were printed over the summer.
- Human Resources has done a great job.
- The Small Business Development Center has helped many local small businesses. They have seen a 160% increase in consulting services since the pandemic began. They helped stabilize 564 jobs in the community and distribute \$6.6 million in COVID-19 funding.
- ARAMARK has been a great partner.
- Package delivery has increased significantly on campus, indicating many students are ordering online rather than shopping in the community.
- Landscaping and Grounds recently placed Adirondack chairs across campus to encourage students to be outside.
- **Dr. Tim Pierson, Vice President for Student Affairs**, said that students have been “behaving” and not throwing big parties on weekends. His area is trying to find ways to make residential campus life interesting and fun with social distancing.
- The Office of Student Housing made available more single rooms and more first-year students were given permission to have cars on campus because they felt “safer” than using public transportation.

Equity Action Task Force Report

- Cameron Patterson, Managing Director of the Moton Museum, presented the Equity Task Force Report described in detail in the BOV Materials.
- He noted the Equity Action Task Force was charged with making recommendations to advance the following three goals: (1) Develop a process for addressing incidents of racial discrimination, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; (2) Design opportunities for every student to engage with the Moton Museum and Farmville’s civil rights history’ and (3) Propose a series of Conversations on Campus for the campus community.
- He reported progress on all three charges and iterated the recommendations in the report.
- The Task Force includes individuals who are responsible for implementing the recommendations.
- The Diversity Strategic Plan will be delivered later this year.
- Ms. Adkins Roane said she is interested to hear a future report describing the campus conversations, faculty development opportunities, and changes in police training and policy.

- Mr. Patterson said that SGA will kick off a series of Town Hall conversations in hybrid format. They will be student centered but faculty and staff will be able to listen. Students are eager to be partners with the campus community. While the conversations might be “uncomfortable at times, it’s okay to be uncomfortable hearing students’ experiences.” Police Chief Mooney has put together a community committee that is reviewing all policies, particularly related to use of force and diversity training.
- Board member Colleen McCrink Margiloff thanked everyone for their hard work and asked about the timeline for implementation of recommendations and what measures will be taken to ensure accountability.
- Mr. Patterson replied these recommendations and other diversity activities will be made available on the web site and that although the Task Force has completed their work, they are committed to continuing conversations into the fall to ensure follow-up. The Clark House will become a Center for Multicultural affairs. Provost Smith added that 3 cabinet-level people are on the task force and they regularly communicate with President Reveley.
- President Reveley said the current “racial reckoning” will be “the lasting grace note of this challenging 2020 year.”
- The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.