

President's Advisory Council Meeting

April 15, 2025, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Location: Stallard Boardroom

Present: President Reveley, Lee Bidwell, Kari Hampton, Eric Hodges, Lisa Kinzer, Benjamin Topham

Faculty are grateful for...

- The well-attended Open House on April 5. We appreciate the hard work in Admissions and think reorganizing the Open House events worked well.
- The beautiful spring campus grounds and the work that our groundskeeping staff are doing.
- The student-led "Who Tells Our Stories" conversations this week, which is a great example of Citizen Leadership.
- The recognition of students at the Citizen Leader award ceremony
- The great students being recruited and participating in the Call Me Mister program

BOV Resolution Regarding DEI

We appreciate the email you sent on March 25 and your remarks at the General Faculty Meeting regarding the [BOV's DEI resolution](#), but faculty would like more details regarding the resolution.

- Can you explain a little more about the considerations made regarding the content and process of constructing the BOV's DEI resolution?

President Reveley began by emphasizing that there would be no limitations on free speech or academic freedom. The resolution that was adopted is straightforward and allows us as an institution to continue with our work. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the BOV, viewing it as a good safeguard for LU.

President Reveley stated that he would push back against any suggestion of modifying efforts related to LU being an inclusive campus. He wants LU in a good, safe position and is actively looking for the right path through the current environment.

President Reveley emphasized that there are no consequences for employment based on ideological differences. Academic freedom is at the core of what we do.

Brightspeed Service Issues

At the General Faculty meeting, Chief Comer explained that the frequent interruptions in Brightspeed phone service are not just inconvenient and disruptive, but are a threat to public safety because the fire alarms do not work in buildings when Brightspeed is down. She noted that

there was going to be a meeting at Longwood with Brightspeed representatives and several entities across the area to discuss ongoing outages.

- What was the outcome of the collective meeting with the company? Why are there so many Brightspeed interruptions? Can Longwood contract with a different company that can offer uninterrupted phone service, and if so, is there serious consideration being given to doing so?

President Reveley reported that a meeting was held last week that included several entities including LU, HSC, the Town of Farmville, and others. Brightspeed is working on short and long-term solutions. Some of the issues are related to the infrastructure of phone lines.

Follow-up: Addressing building maintenance and cleanliness issues

After our last PAC meeting, you kindly followed up in an email to PAC members on concerns regarding repairs in Rotunda, Chichester, and Hiner explaining that an architectural firm is under contract to address the water leak in Rotunda and that HVAC units are the underlying problem in Hiner and Chichester. The total cost of these repairs could reach \$2 million.

- Can you give us an update on funding and completing repairs in Rotunda, Chichester, and Hiner? Has money been allocated in the state budget to help pay for these significant expenses?

President Reveley stated that we are still waiting on the state budget, which has a consequential role in addressing some of these repairs. Further, he explained that each of these repairs is unique. LU has an architect under contract to diagnose the leak in Rotunda. This is likely to be a more straightforward fix when identified. The issues in Chichester and Hiner will involve significant HVAC repair/replacement, which is more complicated and costly.

- What actions have been taken to improve cleaning services within campus buildings?

A discussion about cleaning services on campus included the challenges of hiring staff for the positions and bigger issues related to affordable housing in Farmville. So far, efforts to facilitate additional affordable housing development in Farmville have been unsuccessful. The Budd Group, like other similar campus cleaning services, is short staffed. Many universities are experiencing similar challenges.

General Updates

- Can you give us an update on recent federal and state mandates, legislation, and funding that affect Longwood, as well as Longwood's Admissions and budget situation for AY 26?

President Reveley stated that admission numbers look good for this time of year.

President Reveley indicated that Virginia is a well-run state regarding finances, and that the state budget will likely be done by late April or early May. It is possible or even likely that mid-year changes would be made over the summer, depending on the economic impact of federal job cuts on the Commonwealth.

- Do you have other information you wish to share or questions for us?

President Reveley started this discussion by mentioning his concern for our students. The visa situation for international students is an ongoing concern, although none of our students are in any danger in regards to international visas at this time. He is very concerned about the state of US higher education. LU is in a relatively good position by virtue of being in Virginia, by staying financially prudent, and with strong admissions reports for the upcoming year. There has never been this amount of duress, both political and financial, on colleges and universities. There are a number of US institutional processes that are likely to calm domestic politics to a more normal level in the coming months. However, he is worried about how situations at other institutions will affect LU, as well as any potential hazards from unstable and unpredictable global events.