

## **Closing Faculty Meeting**

**Friday March 27, 2025**

**3:30pm Blackwell Ballroom**

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 pm by Faculty Senate Chair Lee Bidwell. Chair Bidwell welcomed attendees to the closing meeting and recognized both the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate members for their contributions during the academic year. She announced that graduation is scheduled for May 16, 2025. Chair Bidwell also invited attendees to a reception following the meeting to honor retirees and faculty members receiving promotions.

Chief Comer provided an overview of campus safety, emphasizing the continually evolving environment and the importance of input from students, faculty, and staff. She outlined ongoing and upcoming campus safety initiatives, including Code Red Training, Active Shooter Training, and Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) training in crisis management, certified active shooter instruction, and sport and special event evacuation. Chief Comer stated that the department regularly reviews its safety programs and training to ensure that Longwood University remains a secure environment.

A quorum was determined present and the minutes from the Opening Faculty Senate Meeting on August 23, 2024 were approved as submitted.

Lisa Kinzer (current BOV rep for Faculty Senate) will not be serving another term. She gave a brief description of the duties to include, reporting on faculty philanthropic work, alumni, etc. She stated the BOV must attend PAC meetings and Faculty Senate meetings.

Lee Bidwell thanks Lisa Kinzer for her time and effort for all faculty. Lee stated a new BOV member must be elected. JoEllen Pederson and Eric Hodges were nominated.

Pres. Taylor Reveley addressed the faculty and stated these were challenging times and he assured those in attendance he was doing everything he could to keep all threats away from Longwood University. He stated we were navigating through the DEI turmoil by raising lots of money and seeing higher admissions. While it is a long road ahead, he was positive our perseverance and our stamina would help show the public that higher education is productive. He made sure to clarify that he was here for us all and that diversity matters here and always will. Dr. Reveley stated he was watching Virginia's budgets closely. He advised the good news was that there was money to serve as matching funds to create endowed chairs by Fall 2026. There should be 8 new chairs at that time.

Provost Larissa Smith addressed the faculty and acknowledged the contributions of Lisa Kinzer, Lee Bidwell, and the Senate Executive Committee during the previous academic year. She announced the reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for ten years. Provost Smith reported that Anna Kuthy has been appointed Director of Assessment and will begin in June. She stated that curriculum improvements have enhanced student recruitment. She noted that retention and graduation rates associated with the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) are performing well. Several faculty members have received grants to redesign courses. Provost Smith indicated that Longwood University continues to hire faculty, with a significant proportion on tenure track or tenured. She announced an upcoming student survey and the anticipated recommendations from

the Artificial Intelligence (AI) taskforce. She briefly discussed digital badging and the ongoing determination of an appropriate definition. Provost Smith reminded faculty of available external grant funding and expressed gratitude to recipients and to Alix Fink and her office for their support. She confirmed that grant opportunities will continue. She also announced a music concert scheduled for the evening and reported a record number of students currently studying abroad. She concluded by inviting attendees to celebrate the achievements of retirees and faculty members who have earned promotion.

Lee Bidwell read the results from the vote for BOV representative. JoEllen Pederson will be the new elected BOV representative for Faculty Senate. Lee acknowledges the tenured/promoted faculty as well as the retirees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm with a reception to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Gunn