

President's Advisory Council Meeting

September 23, 2025

Location: Stallard Ballroom

Minutes

In attendance: President Taylor Reveley, Drs. Lee Bidwell, Ronda Walker, Haley Woznyj, Carl Harvey, Jennifer Hutchinson, and JoEllen Pederson

Lee started the meeting with a discussion about what faculty are excited about right now:

- Welcoming new faculty and the Class of 2029
- An exciting, fun Convocation ceremony

BOV Transparency

- The September [Board of Visitors meeting](#) was held off-site at the Baliles Environmental Center at Hull Springs Farm, which is located approximately 137 miles and an almost 3-hour drive from Longwood, making it virtually impossible for faculty and staff to attend. Can you explain why the BOV meeting was held off-site, especially without prior public notification?
 - What are the plans for the location and duration of BOV meetings this year?
- Can you explain the caveat in the approval of the Consent Agenda at the Sept. 12 BOV meeting?

President Reveley mentioned that things are currently strained in the federal government. There will probably be a government shutdown next week/early October. Longwood has worked hard to ensure that federal student loan and Pell Grant dollars have been processed in advance of that potential.

The BOV meeting was at the Baliles Center because we generally have a meeting there every four years so all BOV members get to see the space at least once. Usually, that happens at the June meeting. However, we have had more BOV member turnover than we've had since 2005. Additionally, several BOV members live closer to the Baliles Center than Longwood, and the logistics worked out well with scheduling challenges. It was an open meeting. He hopes to have the other BOV meetings this year on campus. He mentioned that the Rector of the BOV, Ron White, cares deeply about Longwood.

Lee asked a follow-up question because the meeting location was not announced on the website ahead of the meeting. President Reveley responded that the meeting was public, but he understood it was a distance away from Longwood. Lee said that she understood that the meeting was technically public, but many faculty feel that the meeting did not meet the spirit of a "public

meeting.” President Reveley described the conditions that are considered “public” gatherings of Board members and iterated that the recent meeting met the requirements of a public meeting, but acknowledged he could see her point that it’s good for others to be able to come to these meetings and participate. He stated that, in a fiduciary sense, it is important for Board members to see facets of the campus beyond Farmville.

Lee asked if the December and March meetings were going to be held on campus, and President Reveley said he hoped they would be.

To the question about the Consent Agenda, President Reveley responded that several of the BOV members are jumping in and had good thoughts - this proposed policy was one area. Radford seemingly has a good debt management strategy, and the BOV suggested it would make sense to dovetail our policy. We’ll see those changes in December most likely.

The University took out a \$5 million dollar line of credit to have in case it is needed for unexpected expenses that need to be addressed quickly, such as a broken HVAC system. He said that lines of credit are one form of how universities everywhere work through quick timing of expenses like broken HVAC systems. With a line of credit, you haven’t actually borrowed money, but you have been pre-approved to borrow money. Longwood is unusual in that we *don’t* already use lines of credit. We have not used any of the \$5 million line of credit that was recently obtained. We have it because of foresight and it could help if student loans and Pell Grants do not get dispersed in a timely fashion by the federal government if there is a shutdown. In January (2025) there were conversations about federal grants not moving smoothly. If there was a government shutdown, having this line of credit would help because it’s akin to an insurance policy, particularly if the state is not in a place to step in and help during, say, a shutdown,

JoEllen asked a follow-up question about why \$5 million was selected as the credit line amount, and if the \$7 million mentioned in the policy before the BOV was a total overall of borrowing permitted without Board consent or if that figure is the limit from each specific lender.

President Reveley responded that \$7 million was a total overall that could be borrowed without Board discussion. The \$5 million seemed like a good amount to have in case of an urgent financial need.

Budget & Enrollment

- How is undergraduate enrollment holding up after the “melt?”
- What is Longwood doing to prepare for the “demographic cliff” and increased competition for students from other nearby states?

To these questions, President Reveley responded that enrollment is good. There is melt every year, but things are encouraging. At the census, we will probably have 5% more undergraduate students than we had last year. There has also been unspecified growth in full time graduate students. Though, these gains do not sugarcoat the way that COVID has lingering effects.

Birthrates have dropped, but Virginia is lucky because they have not dropped as much as in some other states - it's projected to be a shallow plateau. State officials are eager to be supportive during this demographic drop. Things that are helping Longwood include: Admissions staff located around the state, dual enrollment classes, and athletics. Also, the town and county are very supportive of Longwood. Chipotle was discussed as an example of the community working to help bring businesses to town that are attractive to students.

Carl asked how the cliff is projected to affect graduate admissions. President Reveley responded that it will not have a big effect on graduate programs because they are pulling from only the highest-achieving undergraduate students. There are other factors that influence graduate programs that differ from undergraduate programs.

Ronda mentioned that graduate programs at R1s are being hit hard by federal cuts, and asked whether the President thinks these schools (i.e. Johns Hopkins, UVA) could add undergraduates to make up for losses in Graduate programs.

President Reveley stated that UVA and VT are under political pressure from the state not to do that. They are under more scrutiny in how they handle undergraduate admissions - they won't use an admissions lever in a way they maybe would have otherwise. He does not think federal funding is coming back to R1s. We are not directly dependent on federal funding so we are in a better place than R1s.

Carl asked what may happen to Virginia's budget given cuts in federal jobs. President Reveley responded that Virginia has a lot of ties to the federal budget, but the state is well-managed. He is concerned, though, especially if there is a federal shutdown.

- How much of the \$5 million line of credit has the university spent? What type of operating expenses will the line of credit pay for if the funds are needed?

See above for details. None of the line of credit from the bank has been used.

Hiring, Contracts, and Compensation

- Adjunct faculty have not received contracts or pay as of September 16, 2025. Why not? When should they expect both?

Adjunct faculty received their contracts on September 18th and will get paid at the beginning of October, which is 6 weeks after the start of the semester. President Reveley stated that this is the first year that adjuncts have had contracts rather than just processing CSC forms, and he believes this is a good step. As he understands it, the timing of contracts is on par with when CSC forms have been issued in the past, and payment for adjuncts this semester is close to what it normally has been. He admitted that the pay schedule did seem strange.

Haley asked a follow-up question. She stated that historical precedence doesn't make six weeks of work without pay desirable, and asked if we could do better. The President said he will check into it. He is not sure if it is an issue internally or with the new state HCM system (Cardinal).

Lee also suggested that communication with adjunct faculty could be improved. And the President replied that the Cardinal system, which the state adopted several years ago, is not well-suited to higher education.

- What improvements have been made in the process for approving and posting faculty lines so departments can be competitive in the hiring cycle?

The President replied that he, the Provost, and Deans work together to discuss faculty hiring needs. It is his fault if the system is a bit clunky. He did mention that 6 or 7 searches will be posted soon. We are still in the business of hiring people.

Lee asked about the process for identifying faculty lines to be posted, for example in the case of a retirement. The President responded that ideally, Department Chairs work with Deans. Then the Deans and the VPAA meet. Then he and the VPAA meet. He personally approves all hires - from police officers to faculty. He does this to ensure the headcount of employees across the University is consistent. He stated that the people we hire are one of the best things about Longwood, but they also are a large part of budget expenses.

The timing of conversations regarding hiring and faculty lines are not usually like "clockwork" and depend on many factors. Concerns were raised about not being able to be competitive in hiring from the strongest candidate pool early in the academic year. The President responded that he could do his part to make sure things are flowing over the summer.

Old Business

- Can you update us on the plans for repairs in Hiner, Chichester, and Rotunda?

Rotunda: The solution has been identified and the funds have been secured to fix the leak . It is a bigger issue than hoped. Steel in the Rotunda will need to be replaced. We now need to work

through the process of getting the job completed.

Chichester: There is a patch solution for now and they are seeking funds from the General Assembly in the next budget cycle to deal with the expensive HVAC problem in that building. If the funding is approved, the work could begin in July 2026 and be completed over the summer.

Hiner: There is a sequence of plans. Funding is being requested from the General Assembly to renovate Coyner so that it can be a temporary location during Hiner renovations. There are also talks of using philanthropic dollars for renovations. Once that is secured, then renovations and beautification will take approximately 18 months. The goal is for Coyner and Hiner to be renovated for the College of Business and Economics to be a unified whole in the future. Haley asked if philanthropic dollars are able to be spent quicker than waiting on General Assembly money. President Reveley said that yes, they are looking for philanthropic support for some of the renovations and that the money could start the renovations sooner.

- Concerns with Brightspeed service continue. What are the plans to ensure we have consistent phone service?

From a public safety standpoint, we are ok now because we have shifted those lines to Shentel. The other issues remain problems without a solution in sight.

What questions do you have for us?

President Revely asked us if students are feeling stressed out or expressing concern about the current political and social climate of the USA. PAC members shared that students seem engaged in coursework and campus life.