

Longwood Board of Visitors Meeting

September 11, 2026

Minutes submitted by Dr. JoEllen Pederson, Professor of Sociology and Faculty Representative to the BOV.

Mr. Jeff Nottingham began the meeting with a welcome and a remembrance of the lives lost on 9/11/01. President Reveley followed this with a moment of silence.

The new Board of Visitors members were introduced.

Ms. Raven White described herself as being in tech and entrepreneurship.

Mrs. Kim Malnick, a Longwood graduate and former teacher of 17 years, is completing a term on the Virginia Beach School Board. She and her husband own a lumber company, and he attended the meeting as the Foundation Board representative.

Ms. Glenda Booth is a Longwood graduate from Fairfax County who did legislative work in the house and senate.

Ms. Cookie Scott, also a Longwood graduate, was the university's first African American graduate and is the namesake of the N. H. Cookie Scott Multicultural Center. She retired from the Department of Corrections in 2018 and is serving her second term on the Board.

President Reveley reflected further on the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. He noted that enrollment has increased by 900 students since 2001 and that the endowment has grown from \$19.7 million to more than \$100 million.

Reveley said it is a great time to be a VA public university. We are the 3rd oldest in that category. We have the largest percentage of alumni who stay in the state to work.

The previous minutes and the consent agenda (with edits discussed before the meeting) were approved.

Over the next several hours, each vice president presented a report.

Mr. Cam Patterson:

- Family weekend starts today (9/11/26)
- It is also Heart of Virginia weekend.

- He was thankful for the dedication of the N.H. Cookie Scott Center on Thursday (9/10/26).
- Gave a brief overview of student affairs at Longwood for new members.
- Over the summer, Student Affairs staff prepared the residence halls, including extensive work in Cox Hall and an HVAC replacement in the Landings. Students began returning to campus on July 27.
- Considerable effort went into welcoming students back to campus through pre-semester programs such as First Lancers, BOND, and ARO Empowers.
- A cookout was hosted at Clark House.
- Rock the Brock was a huge success. So was New Lancer Days, First Friday Back, and the Club Involvement Fair.

President Reveley asked Cam about mental health and this age cohort.

Mr. Patterson discussed giving students “place and space” to build connections and find resources they need.

President Reveley noted the spirit of connection throughout campus and the range of opportunities for students.

Ms. Booth asked about the cost of joining Greek life and the percent of students who participate.

Mr. Patterson stated that 28% of Longwood students participate in Greek life with a cost of around \$400-\$500 a semester.

Mr. Tim Hall:

- Thanked the Board and everyone around the table for helping “raise the children”. He noted that we have 320 student athletes and he thinks of them as his children.
- Men’s soccer is performing very well, ranking among the nation’s top 25 teams and remaining one of only nine undefeated schools this season.
- Women’s Golf won the William and Mary Invitational.
- Longwood won the Big South Academic Cup. Our student athletes have an average GPA of 3.48. Every team had a GPA average above 3.0.
- Men’s basketball went on an 11-day donor funded trip to Italy over the summer.
- Longwood has a new softball coach and a new women’s lacrosse coach.
- Two baseball players went to professional teams at the end of last season.

Ms. White asked if we are losing students to the portal.

Mr. Hall responded, yes. We lose athletes, but not at the same rate as other schools because we try to give them the best experience possible.

Mr. Nottingham asked whether students leave for more lucrative opportunities elsewhere.

Mr. Hall responded that if our top athletes transferred to somewhere like NC State they would make 50-60K dollars to play for them. So, we are getting poached, even as we recruit high school athletes.

Asked which improvements required funding, Mr. Hall said he was working with Mrs. Hodges' team to finance a new turf field and weight-room equipment.

Mr. Schmalzback mentioned that they had discussed adding new sports. He asked how much more academic help Athletics would need.

Mr. Hall said they would need two more academic support people.

Dr. Jennifer Green:

- In the admissions cycle, May 1 is a big day, but the work continues all summer.
- Summer on-campus visits were strong.
- The BOV was doing a tour with a new tour guild that afternoon.
- Longwood currently has 60 trained tour guides.
- Whitehead Hall will offer valuable opportunities for students beyond the music program.
- Ninety-six percent of Longwood graduates are employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation.
- All incoming families received a Longwood branded garden flag – so keep your eyes open for those.
- Admissions continues to collaborate with high school counselors through the ACCESS Counselor Program.
- They are focusing on getting current teachers to help recruit future teachers.
- Retention numbers will become available in October.
- Graduation rates are at their highest level in years.
- Homecoming registration is 3% higher than last year. Tailgate spot sales have increased 11%.

Mr. Nottingham asked why students leave Longwood.

Dr. Green said the available information is based on student feedback, with many citing a desire to return home.

Ms. Booth asked about entrance policies. The BOV must approve them, but she could not find them on our website. She also asked if AI is utilized for admissions decisions.

Dr. Green stated that we have been test-optional since the pandemic. We also do not require students to submit essays. We use the Common Application. Admissions does NOT use AI in any admission review.

Ms. White asked if we offer early admissions.

Dr. Green stated that Nursing has an early decision option. For everyone else, early action is December 1. It is not binding for students, but it does help them access merit scholarships.

Ms. White asked what the admissions targets are. Dr. Green responded that December 1 and February 1 are the target dates.

Mr. Schmalzbach asked about the Honors College admissions process. Dr. Green said every student can indicate interest in being considered for the Honors College, but admissions counselors also identify students who qualify. The deadline for the Honors College is December 1.

President Reveley stated that the sea is choppy for admission. In 2030 there will be more deaths than births in the USA.

Dr. Lara Smith:

- Introduced Dr. Wade Edwards as the new Dean of the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences.
- She thanked the BOV members for attending Convocation.
- 84.6% of our classes are taught by full-time faculty, 90% of undergraduate classes.
- She reflected on teaching during 9/11/01.
- We have a new Data Science major and a new graduate program in Information Technology.
- Next fall we will have a new accelerated program in Nursing for folks in the nursing field already.
- Mentioned work on smaller sized credentials like graduate certificates.

A guest in the audience asked Dr. Smith how she deals with all the pressure. Dr. Smith talked about the CAFÉ wellness week.

Ms. Booth asked about the value of three-year degrees compared with four-year degrees. Dr. Smith said four-year degrees remain central to Longwood's mission, though the university might also offer reduced-credit programs.

Mr. Rose asked if it is possible to graduate in three years if students come in with credits. Dr. Smith said it was.

Mr. Matt McGregor:

- We are very collaborative in all the work we do at Longwood.
- His unit is especially busy from May through July.
- They are finalizing the 2025 audit.
- Revenue is on-track with projections.
- Whitehead Hall construction is progressing.
- Five campus chillers needed work. Three are complete. The other two are nearing completion this winter.
- In the 2027 budget Lankford Hall will get a new roof and doors and Coyner Hall will get a building systems replacement.
- We received more money (almost double) for the Maintenance Reserve Program in the state budget (over three million).
- Items on the list for improvements include the Rotunda entrance, Brock Commons ADA accessibility work.

Mr. Rose asked if there was a multi-year plan. Mr. McGregor said there was and mentioned 26, 27, and 28.

Mr. Rose asked if any of it was for Athletics. Mr. McGregor said the short answer was no.

Mrs. Courtney Hodges:

- Gave a brief description of what the Advancement Unit does for Longwood.
- She discussed a philanthropic student group that is new and has a lot of energy.
- Her team devotes considerable time to donor stewardship.
- Last year was our best fundraising year ever: 30 million dollars.
- Mrs. Hodges discussed a new campaign that starts this November.

Two board members then praised each vice president's contributions to Longwood University. Although I did not record every comment, their feedback was highly complimentary.

Mr. Edwards, Alumni Board Representative:

- He was a student at Longwood on 9/11/01. He talked about the unity he experienced on campus after the tragedy.
- Discussed how Longwood is recognized all over the country.
- The alumni board engages, serves, and supports alumni.

- He talked about how wonderful the collaboration between the Career Center and alumni has been.
- Lunch Bunch started in Richmond and continues to grow in both locations and participants.
- This summer's inaugural Beach Day drew more than 100 alumni and was highly successful.

Mr. George Melnyk, President of the Foundation Board:

- The endowment is 127 million, seven years ago it was 72 million. We diversified our investments seven years ago.
- According to CUBO we are doing very well. Longwood was ranked second out of 24 in the commonwealth for one-year growth.
- The Foundation was able to provide 3.6 million in scholarships to 900 students last year.
- The foundation has a line of credit/grant partnership with Longwood. Longwood paid back 4.5 million this year.
- The Foundation also holds the Basketball Strategic Fund.
- They have sold 6.5 million in Wetlands Tax Credits from the Baliles Center. They want to sell more, but don't have any options currently. That money goes to the administration surplus.
- Mr. Burt Hazlewood is retiring. A new CEO has been selected and will be voted on by the Foundation Board.

Dr. JoEllen Pederson, Faculty Representative to the BOV

- I gave my report of summer activities. I also thanked the BOV for passing the resolution on the Constitutional Role and Civic Purpose of Public Higher Education in the United States.

Ms. Cameryn Lowery, SGA President (year 2) and Student Representative

- Discussed what students are excited about, including Octoberfest.

The meeting concluded at 12:15 PM.