

Report from Board of Visitors Meeting, December 1, 2023

Lisa Kinzer, Faculty Representative to the BOV

The Board of Visitors met in Stallard Boardroom, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Current Board membership found [here](#).

Board materials for 12/1 meeting [here](#).

- My written report on student retention efforts by faculty is on pages 73-74.

Rector's Remarks

- Rector Katharine Bond welcomed everyone and commented (with regard to November elections) that “bipartisanship is in Virginia’s DNA.” She also drew attention to a Longwood video on Martha Bailey Brown, a 77-year-old Longwood freshman who had been a casualty of the Prince Edward County school shut-down.

President's Remarks

- President Reveley remarked that the campus is looking resplendent and Farmville’s Christmas tree is “picture perfect.”
- The president acknowledged the discord in the wider world with its political climate and recent events, but praised our students for demonstrating how people can come together and care about each other at a recent event co-hosted by Jewish and Muslim student organizations. “Being around our students makes us optimistic,” he said.
- “Things are good here,” President Reveley continued, citing the success of homecoming, the dedication of Allen Hall, tailgating, opening of JPB, and our athletic teams off to a good start. SACSCOC review is moving forward as we crescendo to the team’s visit in March. He added that the work with the Board is “a joy,” and part of what makes American higher education great. The concept of the board is at the very heart of that, and the model of the board is a long-standing tradition that was borrowed by the corporate world, not vice-versa.

The Consent Agenda and minutes from September meeting were approved.

Reports from Vice Presidents

Vice President of Student Affairs – Cameron Patterson, p. 65 of [board materials](#)

The end of the semester is always busy with a number of events; student organization and clubs dinner had more than 160 students and advisors. With a variety of clubs (gaming club is most popular with 80 members), students can still start their own. Number of participants seems to be on the rise post-Covid. Mr. Patterson offered that our students are affected by global events, and Student Affairs is reaching out. Citizen leadership was clearly on display during a student-led voter engagement initiative. First generation students came together in a November 8 celebration, and a lounge and research space has been designated for them. SGA wrote letters of support for a forensic nursing program launched by Centra. When the president asked about enrollment in Greek societies, Mr. Patterson responded, indicating that while membership did take a hit during Covid, it was now on the rise. At the previous evening’s basketball game, the rector witnessed the students’ obvious admiration for Mr. Patterson, and she thanked him for his work.

In the written report for board materials, there is a summary of the activity of the Accessibility Resources office which may be of interest to the faculty. In short, it confirms what is being observed and anecdotally reported in the classroom regarding the college-readiness of our current students.

Director of Athletics – Tim Hall, p. 45 of [board materials](#)

Mr. Hall referred to the previous night's game (which board members had attended) as a nail-biter, and continued to talk about the great things that are happening. He believes the opening of JPB and the homecoming events put Longwood "in another stratosphere." He highlighted women's basketball All-Big South honorees Adrianna Shipp-Davis and Anne-Hamilton LeRoy, and applauded freshman soccer player Peyton Curney for her outstanding first season at Longwood. The current transfer portal makes transferring to other colleges easy, but Hall stated that our strong athletes love Longwood and want to stay here. Student athletes are involved in community service at the food pantry, habitat for humanity, local schools, and the Moton Museum. Some NCAA funding we receive is based on student athletes' academic success; as academic services restructuring has helped in this area, dollars will increase. President Reveley asked how the trend of student athlete endorsements has affected Longwood; Mr. Hall responded that the big money is at much higher levels, particularly in football, and consequently not relevant or problematic to Longwood.

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs – Larissa M. Smith, p. 24 of [board materials](#)

Dr. Smith drew attention a few end-of-semester events on campus: Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*, Art's Design and Craft sale, and Music's Holiday Dinners. The majority of her oral report focused on Civitae, which was founded 10 years ago and seems to be working well as evidenced by highly successful Symposium Day and Research Showcase presentations. She continued that Civitae should not become stale, and described a partnership with the Constructive Dialogue Institute to help faculty learn how to teach speaking AND listening. Tools have been piloted in 7 sections of CTZN 110. President Reveley contributed that the young and old view social media differently, the young do not yet have well-informed opinions, yet social media is incentivizing everyone to express them. Dr. Smith says that these programs help navigate that. The president concluded that Civitae "remains a very distinctive thing. The idea of citizenship is more important than ever."

Vice-President of Strategic Operations – Victoria Kindon, p. 56 of [board materials](#)

Ms. Kindon reported on Admissions' decision to move to a December 1 admit deadline. This is a move away from rolling admission, which could alert students to their acceptance status sooner. Ms. Kindon said this previous model did not enable us to remain competitive with other institutions. Changes in the FAFSA form are causing delays for families (at every university) to determine their expected contribution. "Our team does a good job projecting what costs will be; what aid might be (Jennifer Green, Emily O'Brion, the Foundation office)." Mr. Smith from the Board thanked Ms. Kindon for taking parents into consideration. Mr. Schmalzbach pointed out that students in elementary schools were affected by Covid, and are coming from a different background. Ms. Kindon replied that the new dean of admissions is key here; he has connections. We are reaching out to private schools and home schools through dual enrollment finance classes, reaching out to churches with an "On the Road to College" pamphlet. Our small size allows admissions and financial aid staff to talk with families.

Vice President for Administration and Finance – Matthew McGregor, p. 38 of [board materials](#)

The staff in Administration and Finance is looking forward to a break, as Grounds staff in particular, have been busy transforming the face of campus in advent of the holiday season. Financial reporting has begun its work with the APA on the FY23 audit and with the NCAA for the athletic audit. There is an accelerated completion timeline of March 1 in anticipation of the SACS-COC on-campus visit this spring. While the new budget was not in at the time of this meeting, “budget dashboard (p. 41 of report) shows we’re in really good shape,” McGregor said. With regard to JPB, the Oliver Anthony concert brought new people to campus, while alumni weekend brought those who were very familiar with campus. “These events tested where we are going with that facility. We are still learning how the building functions.” Many constituents are involved in the facility (Aramark, Budd Group, among others). McGregor concluded that the center has been great and the students have embraced it. Capital planning will be meeting to discuss extending the masterplan we currently have, considering the overall look of campus, energy solutions, maintenance planning, and space utilization (renovating and repurposing old buildings such as ARC, Wygal, and McCorkle).

Vice President for Institutional Advancement – Courtney Hodges, p. 49 of [board materials](#)

Ms. Hodges began by recognizing Longwood Music alum Tyler Gage’s good work with the athletic pep band, a great way for students to get involved in athletics without actually playing a sport. Season ticket sales for basketball are near 800, a 612% increase from last year. Advancement partnered with athletics for events that created a “welcome home” feel. She noted that one philanthropic project in particular will focus on new baseball facilities. She, too, noted that JPB is a “front porch to campus,” which allows new people in the community to “come on in the house.”

Reports from Representatives

The Foundation Board representative at the meeting was Ms. Tammy Bird Jones, who announced the creation of a fellows program which invites alumni to sit on the board (non-voting members). Our endowment is up to \$98.1 million, having rebounded from 2022. The Foundation awarded \$2.5 million in scholarships in AY22-23, and will award \$2.9 in 23-24. President Reveley expressed his excitement regarding the growth of our endowment.

Mr. Chris Tunstall from the Alumni Association reported that the pregame tailgate party during Alumni Weekend was a huge hit, sold out with over 700 people attending. He praised Nicole Perkins (Wonder Woman) for her team’s work, about which he had heard many compliments. The association hosted a career fair in October which helped hone students’ networking skills. Board member Polly Raible praised this event, calling it “rewarding and meaningful.” Tunstall also talked about Elwood’s Cabinet, which serves as a career closet for Longwood alumni who are teaching and seeking supplies. They will be seeking donations for the closet on Love your Longwood Day (March 20). President Reveley offered that during homecoming, alumni expressed that “the sense of place at Longwood was reinforced by new construction; it still feels like their alma mater.”

Lisa Kinzer, Faculty Representative to the Board, spoke about faculty efforts in student retention, retention being the other side of the enrollment coin from recruitment. Being limited to a 2-page report, Kinzer cited that the details and sheer volume of what faculty are doing cannot be entirely

expressed. While the written report (p. 73) focused on a number of “Intro to the major” courses, the oral report cited other types of initiatives. These included the creation of a first-generation student study lounge, intentional scheduling of classes to encourage optimal student (particularly freshmen) performance, department chairs communicating directly with parents at orientation about department specific college expectations, and the creation of a Student Retention Task Force. Kinzer concluded that it is clear faculty are thinking seriously about retention as they teach across their subject areas. Dr. Sarai Blincoe told Kinzer she would be seeking to create an event at which faculty could share ideas.

Meredith Foster, SGA president, highlighted the organization’s recent activity. PRIDE attended a meeting at which they appealed for better promotion of LGBTQ history at Longwood, gender neutral restrooms (or better signage), and group spaces on campus (which the Intercultural center will provide). She noted bullying problems with Yik-Yak (explaining to many what that social media platform is) and seeks training for faculty and staff to better understand these issues. She went on to note the success of other events, such as a practice session for Research Showcase presentations, Thanksgiving Dinner, and a Safety Walk that alerts authorities to areas on campus that need better lighting. President Reveley commended the organization for managing their own budget of \$6-700K.

The board adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m.