

## **Report from the March 22 – 24, 2018 Board of Visitors Meeting**

### **Sarah E. G. Porter, Ph.D., Faculty Senate Chair**

The Board of Visitors' March meeting was held at Longwood in the Stallard Board Room in Lancaster. The agenda, materials for the meeting, and the meeting minutes are available at <http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/minutes/>

Dr. Power de-Fur, the elected Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors, was unable to attend this meeting due to a conflict. She asked for me to attend in her place.

Rector Marianne Radcliffe welcomed everyone to the meeting and was excited to note that this day was the 5-year anniversary of the Board's approval to appoint President Reveley. She also commented on the excitement about the upcoming naming of the core curriculum.

The consent agenda was approved as posted. The consent agenda included the minutes of the previous meeting and edits, updates and amendments regarding policy, procedure and planning. These changes included a new University assessment policy, approval of course fees for the coming year, and a presentation to SACSCOC.

The President's welcome included a reflection on the history of the Core Curriculum, and he presented a Resolution to the Board to name the program. He mentioned that the naming committee had presented a selection of names to the Board, and they had selected the suggested name from that list. It was therefore resolved that by action of the Board of Visitors, the new core curriculum of the University will hereby be known as **Longwood University's Civitae Core Curriculum**. The Board unanimously approved this resolution.

### **Reports from the Vice Presidents**

#### **Academic Affairs - Larissa Smith Fergeson, Interim Provost and VPAA**

Dr. Fergeson's full report can be found in the Board meeting materials.

Dr. Fergeson commented on the "March Madness" happening at Longwood and highlighted some of the exciting events going on, including the LCVA Gala, the Moton Community Banquet, the evening with the Dos Passos award winner, as well as numerous concerts and festivals. She mentioned that faculty recruitment was going well, with 29 active searches and many great candidates.

Dr. Fergeson addressed the ongoing concerns raised by the faculty about the budget in Academic Affairs. She discussed how travel and other departmental needs were being addressed, and mentioned that the AAUP budget forum was a breakthrough for the tenor of conversations being held with faculty and administration.

She also reported on the SACSCOC accreditation process, notably where the Board must define and regularly re-evaluate its responsibilities and roles as the governing body of the University. Our next reaffirmation will be in 2024 with a 5-year interim report coming next year in 2019, as well as our next strategic plan.

Some other highlights of Dr. Fergeson's report included the following:

- The Core Curriculum is building with Foundations being the current focus, and Perspectives level course coming online next summer and fall.
- The Office of First Year Experiences is reflecting on current best practices, and will be introducing coaching groups for the fall incoming freshman.
- On April 24, Longwood will be hosting its first annual Spring Symposium for Research and Creative Inquiry *and* the MLK Commission will be meeting for a "community conversation" at the First Baptist Church of Farmville.
- A response to a question about how the OSP will fit into the Core Curriculum - they are looking at ways to "broaden the culture" of research and grant funding at the University and she noted the success of the LIFE-STEM NSF funded program.

#### **Administration and Finance - Ken Copeland, VP**

Mr. Copeland's report included updates on some construction projects around campus and a discussion of some of the concerns about the University's budget. He commented on the question of "uncollected revenue" - the University is not allowed to pursue collections against an enrolled student, and as such, the money was not forecasted into the fall budget as it has been in the past. Mrs. Busser asked a question about the pursuit of a new rating agency, and Mr. Copeland commented that we have been assigned an analyst from the S&P who he hopes will do a private rating. Mr. Hansen asked if the Moody's rating downgrade affected the bond for the Curry/Frazer renovations - it did not as that had already been established. Much of the spent-down reserve funds were spent on a lot of deferred maintenance (e.g., Curry/Frazer). Mr. Copeland also discussed community development. A question was asked about whether Longwood was pursuing any of the empty spaces in the downtown/Main Street area. He sees those spaces as opportunities for entrepreneurship.

Other details of Mr. Copeland's report can be found in the Board meeting materials, including a summary statement of revenues and expenditures as of January 31, 2018.

#### **Intercollegiate Athletics - Troy Austin, Director of Athletics**

Mr. Austin's report can be found in the Board meeting materials. Some highlights included:

- The recent hiring of the new men's basketball coach, Scott Aldrich ("Griff").
- The aim of the athletics department and the new basketball coach is to reclaim our position in Virginia recruitment.
- Mrs. Busser congratulated the teams on their academic successes.

#### **Institutional Advancement - Courtney Hodges, VP**

Ms. Hodges' report can be found in the Board meeting materials, including a summary of gifts received through February 28. Some highlights included:

- Congratulations to Kevin Napier on his keynote address at the annual scholarship dinner.
- Congratulations to senior class President Praise Nyambiya.
- Encouragement to all Board members to "Be Someone's Hero" and participate in the annual Day of Giving (Love your Longwood Day) and to find 10 friends to participate by sharing their gift.
- Mrs. Radcliff further encouraged the members of the Board to participate and make an impact. The goal for the day was 1,790 donations of any amount.

### **Strategic Operations - Victoria Kindon, VP and CIO**

Ms. Kindon's report can be found in the Board meeting materials, including summaries of freshman applications and deposits over the last five years. Some highlights included:

- Some events happening this semester: Honors College is looking to expand by 30 more students and had a recruitment event in February; regional off campus events in Richmond, Nova, and Tidewater; and accepted student day in April.
- May 1 is "deposit day" and they are working to get accepted students to deposit.
- We are on track with deposit numbers as of the date of the report, and 30% of deposited students have a 3.75 or higher high school GPA.
- Admissions counselors are now focusing on accepted students putting in deposits and they have a "scoring" system that allows them to predict the likelihood of a student coming to LU, which helps the counselors be more effective in their recruiting.
- The diversity of the accepted student pool is growing.
- Schools that typically have long waiting lists are often difficult for LU to work around because our accepted students might be waiting on a wait-list acceptance. JMU and Va. Tech are both trying to grow, however, which might help us because they are accepting more and waitlisting fewer students.
- She is "cautiously optimistic" about the freshman class.
- Several Board members engaged in discussion about out of state students (healthy, more deposits), growing the Honors College (needs additional staff and investment in scholarship), analytics and assessment (coaching program spearheaded by Jennifer Green, accessibility and transparency in OAIR).
- Finally, Pres. Reveley and Ms. Kindon were excited to note that we now have more Facebook "likes" than Radford.

### **Student Affairs - Tim Pierson, VP**

Dr. Pierson's report can be found in the Board meeting materials, including a report on Student Housing. Some highlights included:

- A time of transition is upon us as we move the student union to the new space and Frazer is coming offline.
- Dr. Pierson noted a time of great synergy - the Board and the Faculty listen and care about students' voices and this is the core of democracy and student activism.

- Discussion by the Board members included questions about the new counselor position in CAPS (it will be a permanent position likely filled by a post-doc), the window for pursuing Title IX action (indefinite as long as all parties are still at Longwood), and the campus climate survey.

### **Reports from Representatives to the Board**

Full reports can be found in the Board meeting materials. Some highlights are included below.

- The Alumni Board Report included a plug for the upcoming MEGA Reunion weekend.
- The Foundation Board gave a report on several special events and a new scholarship endowment.
- The Real Estate Foundation included updates on several construction projects and the Moody's bond rating.
- The Student Government Association report from Kevin Napier included summaries of the many, many projects that the SGA has been a part of including: getting students mobilized to vote, the approval of a new staff member in CAPS and support for mental health advocacy, SGA attendance at the national SGA conference in Houston, a forum with students and LUPD coming up in April, the upcoming SGA elections, and many others. Kevin will work with the alumni next year to open a Senate chamber in the Upchurch Student Union.
- The Staff Advisory Committee is gearing up for many spring events.

I delivered the Faculty Report to the Board, filling in for Dr. Power-de Fur who was attending a conference. Dr. Power-de Fur's written report included a thank you to the Board, the President and the Cabinet for their attention to the faculty's concerns regarding the departmental budgets. I echoed the sentiments of the report. The report also highlighted the Blackwell talks. I noted that the talks include both pure research, and many projects involving teaching, pedagogy, and curriculum, and invited the Board members to attend the remaining talks. Finally, I discussed the upcoming Spring Symposium for Research and Creative Inquiry. I supplied the Board members with a schedule of events for the day and invited them to come back to Farmville on April 24 to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Mrs. Radcliff shared that she intended to come to campus that day (she did!).

Following the reports, the Board members adjourned for lunch and a tour of Brock Hall and the Weyanoke Hotel.

Following the recess, there was an update from Emily O'Brien about the 2018 General Assembly session (full details available in the meeting materials), and the Board moved into Executive Session at the end of the day.

Saturday, March 24 was an Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah E. G. Porter  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Faculty Senate Chair