

## **Report from the September, 2015 Board of Visitors Meeting**

### **Lissa Power-deFur**

The September meeting of the Board of Visitors was held in the Stallard Board Room, Lancaster Hall on Friday September 11 and Saturday, September 12, 2015. The agenda for the meeting can be found at [http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/Sept2015\\_BOV\\_Schedule.pdf](http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/Sept2015_BOV_Schedule.pdf). Board meeting materials can be found at [http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/BOV\\_Fall\\_BKwb.pdf](http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/BOV_Fall_BKwb.pdf). I attended the meeting on September 11 and 12.

- Rector Margiloff asked for a moment of silence, honoring September 11.
- Minutes from the March meeting (Tab 3 in the meeting materials) were approved.
- The following items on the consent agenda (Tab 4 in the meeting materials) were approved:
  - Update of positions to reflect new responsibilities;
  - Approval to purchase real property related to the Archaeology Field School;
  - Approval of regularly updated Six-Year Plans as required by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV);
  - Approval of appointments to the Longwood University Real Estate Foundation Board;
  - Approval of resolution to authorize financing for capital projects, specifically the Upchurch University Center;
  - Updates to Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Longwood University Foundation regarding the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA);
  - Update to the Psychological Emergency Policy, as required by Virginia Code; and
  - Update to the University Non-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policies, as required under updated and new state and federal guidelines and laws.
- In his report, President Reveley noted the following:
  - The annual reading of Paradise Lost was occurring outside of Grainger.
  - Longwood has the largest sophomore and junior classes in our history, a testimony to our work on retention.
  - Graduate programs have grown.
  - Alumni participation has increased.
  - Town relationships are increasing.
  - Salaries are moving in the right direction.
  - Number of full-time faculty has grown by 8%.
  - Longwood has been recognized by US News and World Report as being among top 10 public regional universities in the South.
- Joan Neff, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs presented her report (Tab 5 of the meeting materials), that included the following.

- Faculty are concerned about work-life balance issues resulting from heavy teaching loads combined with increasing expectations for scholarship and continued involvement in service responsibilities. She reported that a small working group is developing a more comprehensive and finely tuned means of calculating teaching workload.
- The search committee for new Cook-Cole Dean is in place with goal of having the Dean identified by March
- The Board of Visitors commented on the early childhood initiative that was presented in the report, encouraging the university's action due to the huge need in this area of the state
- Ken Copeland, Vice President of Administration and Finance presented his report (Tab 6 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - The General Assembly's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) has issued a number of recommendations to address rising costs of higher education.
  - The Board commented on the Office of Community and Economic Development work with the business community in the area and on the occupancy rates of rooms on campus.
- Troy Austin, Director of Athletics presented his report (Tab 7 of the meeting materials), which included information on the largest gift to athletics in the history of the department, with the recent gift of over \$1 million to the university from Dr. Ray Gaskins. This gift includes an endowed scholarship for the Men's Basketball Program.
- Courtney Hodges, Vice President of Institutional Advancement presented her report (Tab 8 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - Longwood has been the recipient of some sizeable donations recently, including the Marc Boyd Sharp and Wilma Register Sharp Deanship of the Cormier Honors College, Dr. Ray Gaskins' commitment to an endowed scholarship for the men's basketball program and a teacher's scholarship in the College of Education and Human Services.
  - There has been a 15% increase in donors over FY 2014, with alumni participation rate of 10.94%.
  - There has been an increase in staff in the Advancement Office, including the addition of Dr. Ken Perkins, as Provost Emeritus.
- Victoria Kindon, Vice President of Strategic Operations presented her report (Tab 9 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - Admissions is moving to Lancaster and will ultimately have a new building opposite Ruffner. A new Director of Admissions is anticipated by May.
  - Freshmen – to-Sophomore Retention has increased by 3%, with the largest sophomore class in Longwood' history – 872 students.
  - Longwood has the largest group of freshmen with a GPA of 3.75 or higher.

- The number of out-of-state students has doubled (to approximately 60 students) Longwood increasing its scholarship offers, through collaboration with the Foundation and Financial Aid.
  - It was noted that average retention rate is 78 – 79%, whereas the average retention rate for students with scholarships is 94%.
- Longwood is changing application deadline to February 1 to align with other universities.
- The Board of Visitors' discussion addressed the 15% increase in applications, yet slightly lower entering class (by 50) and appreciation for the efforts to increase scholarships.
- Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs presented his report (Tab 10 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - The Sexual Misconduct Policy was updated in response to Federal and State legislative requirements as well as guidelines from the Office for Civil Rights.
  - There has been a decrease in disciplinary cases of 2% in comparison with the 2013-14 academic year.
  - Ongoing efforts are in place to create a climate that is truly diverse and inclusive, that is woven into all aspects of the institution.
- Following reports from the Vice Presidents, representatives to the Board of Visitors offered their reports.
  - Representing the faculty, I thanked the Board members for their past support of faculty salaries, noting that this is an area for continued attention and commented on faculty concerns regarding workload. I highlighted the work of the faculty over the summer, that, in addition to teaching we are involved in such activities as writing blogs, books, and peer-reviewed publications; directing, designing, performing in the arts; supervising student clinical placements; and addressing program accreditation.
  - Ryan Catherwood, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations, represented Kendall Lee, President the Alumni Board. He noted that Longwood has 33,000 alumni, yet only has email addresses for 20,000 with emails. The alumni are 77 percent female and 78 percent live in Virginia. He expressed his appreciation to Nancy Shelton for her years of service. He is planning to engage faculty and athletics to meet with alumni on the road.
  - Student Government Association President, Constance Garner, commented on student engagement. She noted that SGA has purchased 25 bikes for students. She commented on the cost of moving the spirit rock to campus, noting that she had vetoed a request for \$10,000 in SGA funds to complete the move.
  - Bart Mitchell, President of the Longwood Foundation Board commented on the financial strength of the Foundation and of its investments.
  - Parker York, President of the Staff Advisory Committee, commented on the passionate Longwood staff and staff's appreciation of policy of free tuition for employees. She noted that more persons are applying for the SAC book fund that provides up to \$50 for texts.

- During lunch, Board members met in their Strategic Priority Task Force subgroups: Retention and Graduation, National Marketing, Foot Traffic by Alumni and Friends, Prosperity of One of America's Oldest Two-College Communities, Strengthening the University Community, and Organizations, Structuring, and Governance. The board members reported out following lunch.
- The Board received a report on the University Master Plan Findings and Process, with a presentation on the Preferred Plan from the planning firm, Cooper, Robertson & Partners (Tab 12 of the meeting materials).
  - President Reveley noted that a statue of Joan of Arc will be placed at the South end of Brock Commons, using remaining funds from old construction project.
  - The plan will be presented to the Longwood and Farmville committee in early fall, including an exhibit at the LCVA.
  - The Board approved Master Plan
- On Saturday, September 12, the Board of Visitors received an Update on the General Education Revision from members of the Academic Core Curriculum Committee. (Tab 13 of the meeting materials). Drs. Larissa Fergeson, Sharon Emerson-Stonnell, Wade Edwards, and Sarai Blincoe presented the Core Curriculum Reform Process and Timeline, Background to Reform, Core Curriculum Guiding Principles, and Draft Student Learning Goals and Outcomes.
  - The Board commented on engaging students in the design of the Core Curriculum and its interest in implementing some ideas with students governed by current General Education policies (e.g., allowing for some "double dipping" in Gen Ed and major, improving advising).
  - The Board discussed the budget impact, including brief discussion of potential change to charging by semester rather than by credit hour and course fees. President Reveley noted that that there cannot be a radical altering of the number of faculty.
  - The Board returned to its discussion about faculty workload and asked for information about Longwood faculty workload in comparison with benchmark universities. President Reveley commented that a report would be available in December/January).
- The Board of Visitors meeting concluded with the opening of the Maugans Alumni Center.

Submitted by:

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