

Report from Board of Visitors Meeting, December 2, 2022
Lee Millar Bidwell, Faculty Representative to the BOV

The Board of Visitors met in Stallard Boardroom, 9:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. on December 2, 2022.

- No meeting agenda is available on the Board web site at this time and no written agenda was provided. The meeting followed the typical format.
- Click [here](#) for current Board membership.
- Click [here](#) for the complete Board materials. My written report is found on pages 96-97 of the materials.

Rector's Welcome

- Rector Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He noted that Board member Richshawn Adkins Roane was unable to attend the meeting due to her father-in-law's passing the previous night.
- The Consent Agenda, the minutes from the previous Board meeting were approved.

President's Report

- The President noted that 3 other Board members were unable to attend the meeting. Mr. White and Ms. Helmick Proctor were both attending funerals, and Ms. Scott was recovering from a medical condition.
- He led those assembled in a moment of silence in honor of the tragedy at University of Virginia in November.
- He noted that amidst the tragedies there are joys and signs of hope. The lighting of the holiday tree and the holiday dinner are honored traditions that continue. The admissions cycle is rolling along well and we are poised to break ground within a week on the new facilities building, paving the way for a new music building.
- He noted that Ms. Scott and Rector Evans met with concerned students earlier in the semester to discuss ways Longwood can do things better. With this comment he nodded toward three students of color sitting in the audience. During the meeting these students were joined by several others. In total, eight students representing Longwood's CHANGE organization attended the meeting.
- Rector Evans noted that the previous day the Board had held a "very productive discussion" regarding "student concerns."
- The President noted that the Board wanted to be in the Rotunda at 11:30 to hear the caroling in the Rotunda and said that the morning meeting was therefore on a tight schedule. Following caroling, the Board would have lunch, then reconvene at 1:00 p.m. to hear a report from Dr. Pam Tracy on the QEP process, followed by a report from University Attorney Cameron O'Brion on legal updates, and then go into closed session.

Reports from Vice-Presidents

- As the meeting transitioned to reports from Vice-Presidents, the students in attendance held up protest signs. They read: "We deserve to be heard," "Make us a priority,"

“Longwood is a traumatizing experience,” “Is Longwood afraid of CHANGE,” (this sign being a double entendre), and “Divorced or Disregarded?” (apparently in reference to a conversation students had earlier in the semester with the administration). The students sat quietly through the whole meeting holding the signs. As additional students joined the meeting, Judith Campbell and others ensured they had a seat. The students were treated cordially, but essentially were ignored throughout the meeting.

Interim Vice-President for Student Affairs

- Mr. Cam Patterson reported that Lt. Stuart Raible would take over as Interim Director of Public Safety on January 1, following the retirement of Chief Mooney. Mr. Patterson gave a tribute to the service Chief Mooney provided to Longwood during his career.
- The Dean of Students office is working on initiatives to bridge the gap in some students' unmet needs. They have established an emergency fund to support a variety of students and needs. For example, the funds have been used to help students pay for testing with ARO and helped a student get a set of hearing aids.
- Octoberfest 2.0 (rescheduled due to the hurricane) and Family weekend were a success. The Lancers Vote initiative to get students registered to vote and encourage participation in the mid-term elections was also very successful. Longwood won the statewide Motivote competition for having the greatest increase in the number of registered student voters.
- CAPS received a SCHEV workforce grant that allows them to hire a Master's of Counseling pre-licensed professional. The position, for which a search is underway, will focus on serving the needs of the underrepresented student population.
- The Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors recently revised the county flag to include the Moton Museum on it.

Athletic Director

- Mr. Tim Hall noted that women's and men's basketball seasons are underway. The tournament Longwood hosted Nov. 17-19 was a success.
- The JPB Center is coming along nicely.
- Athletics is embarking on a master facilities planning process as some existing facilities need updating.
- He said that athletics currently is understaffed in some “key vital areas.”
- The NCAA is releasing revised criteria for Division-1 status in January. These criteria will require increased spending in athletics.
- Jonas Kalchner, a member of Longwood's men's soccer team, was named the Big South Men's Soccer-Scholar-Athlete of the year.
- Longwood has received a \$50,000 gift to support the baseball program.

Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

- Dr. Larissa Smith said both the Research Showcase and Symposium Days were successful and showed the hard work of students and faculty.

- The Reaffirmation Writing team is going to Atlanta to attend a SACS-COC meeting.
- The Greenwood Library is preparing to launch SALSA, a networked library system that allows easy sharing of catalogs between Longwood, Hampden-Sydney College, and the Central Virginia Regional Library.
- Dr. Ravi Sankar, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Geography, recently hosted an event celebrating World GIS Day that included a collaboration with Farmville Director of Community Development Lee Pambid. Dr. Sankar is currently doing work at the Baliles Center mapping coastal storm damage.
- Ms. Sandra Cisneros recently spoke as part of the Longwood Author Series. Over 300 people attended the event that included a rich Q&A discussion.

Vice-President for Administration

- Mr. Matt McGregor reported there have been many transitions in his area this semester.
- His team is in the process of budgeting for FY 2023-24.
- The room and board rate increases for the next academic year, approved in the Consent Agenda, are generally consistent with previous year. The standard room rate increased 4%. The only significant increase was in the rate for a single room; the 10% increase in cost is due to the fact that single room prices were reduced during the height of the pandemic and are now more distinct from standard room prices again.
- On Sept. 1, Longwood celebrated 67 years working with Aramark. Longwood is Aramark's first higher education food contract.
- Capital Planning is finalizing building permits for the Facilities building. Site preparation is scheduled to begin December 12, with an estimated completion date of July 2024. The building will blend well with others in the downtown area.
- JPB Center is scheduled for a May 2023 completion. When asked about parking for JPB, Mr. McGregor said that the existing parking spaces in the garage and Wynne Drive area should be sufficient. If necessary, shuttles will be used to bring patrons from parking lots behind McDonalds. A parking consultant said a new parking deck was not recommended.
- Lisa Mooney is retiring at the end of the year. Shannon Meadow will serve as the new Director of Human Resources.

Vice-President of Strategic Operations

- Ms. Victoria Kindon said December 1 was the deadline for priority merit scholarships, Nursing, and the Honors College. The demand for the Honors College is so great they are considering a waiting list.
- Longwood is "on target with the admissions milestones and goals." We have had a record number of completed applications. However, one must be cautiously optimistic. There are many factors in play related to admissions. The pandemic interfered with many students taking the PSAT, which is where colleges and universities get their names of potential students.

- The Faculty/Staff Ambassador program is successful and she thanked the deans for their support of this program.
- To better keep track of alumni, Longwood recently hired a firm for a one-year trial basis to provide monthly updates of alumni data.

Vice-President for Institutional Advancement

- Ms. Courtney Hodges reminded everyone that March 22 is Longwood's annual Day of Giving.
- Philanthropic giving is growing. Contributions to the basketball program have been significant, but giving also has increased to all sports, the nursing program, and planned giving.
- Conferences and Scheduling did a great job when Longwood recently hosted the State Senate Finance retreat for two days.

Reports from Representatives to the Board

LU Foundation Board

- Mr. Robert Wertz distributed copies of the Foundation Board Report and urged members to read the information carefully.
- Scholarship donors recently were notified of the student recipients.
- The endowment is down due to market declines, but two new private equity investments are performing well. Despite these declines, scholarship funding was up from 2.3 million dollars in 2021-22 to 2.6 million dollars this academic year.
- The demographics of scholarship recipients reflect the demographics of Longwood's student body.
- Wetland mitigation credits currently sell for \$250,000 per credit.
- The Foundation had a reduction in expenses this year due to some vacancy savings and that money has been placed in reserves.

LU Alumni Association Board

- Ms. Howell said the Alumni Association Board has recently restructured.
- They hosted a Career Week in October that was a major success helping students access a network of alumni for potential jobs.
- The Board hosted "Welcome to the City" events for the class of 2022 in several cities across the state.
- The Longwood University Black Alumni Association recently hosted a student networking event in Richmond with over 70 attendees.
- The Board is selling VIP basketball home game packages to celebrate the last season in Willett. The package includes a stay at the Weyanoke or Tru, game gear, and a tour of JPB.
- Their next meeting is March 25 and coincides with the Ring Ceremony.

Real Estate Foundation Board

- Mr. Daniel reported that they met in November. Louise Waller is working on contract for them a bit longer, but Lori Blackwood is transitioning into that role well.
- A celebration of the one-year anniversary of the dedication of the Baliles Center was held on Nov. 5 that included a live auction. Some of the items auctioned were made from a 500-year-old Southern Red Oak that fell when hit by lightning. The Baliles family planted two new Southern Red Oaks at the celebration.
- The lab facility on site is incredible and is being used. However, it's a long distance from campus. Therefore, construction will begin soon on two student housing units that will accommodate 14 students each. Additionally, a faculty housing unit is planned.

Faculty Representative to the Board

- I began my remarks by noting that as a faculty member who teaches in the Civitae core, and in particular who teaches a CTZN 110 class called "Be a Changemaker," I was proud of the students at the meeting who were working for change.
- My report focused on the tremendous work of our colleagues in Greenwood Library. In my oral remarks, I focused on the role the library plays in enhancing community. I discussed the *Well-Being in the Heart of Campus: Community Connections at Greenwood Library* grant and the value of the Southside Reads program.

Student Representative to the Board

- Ms. Mackenzie Harry, SGA President, began her report by reading a statement to the Board of Visitors from students in CHANGE (Community, Humanity, Allyship, Networking, Grace, and Equity), a coalition of multicultural organizations at Longwood, some of whom were silently protesting throughout the meeting.
- The statement expressed frustration in the lack of action and lack of transparency of the administration.
- The statement said that the administration has emphasized that students of color should not make "demands," but rather participate in conversations. The statement said that they had participated in "countless conversations" with the administration, but no concrete actions have been taken to address their concerns. The statement recounted that CHANGE representatives had met with President Reveley, Interim Vice-President of Student Affairs Cameron Patterson, and Provost Smith on October 13 to discuss their concerns and requests for action. They also met with President Reveley, Rector Evans, and Board member Cookie Scott on November 22. The statement contends that although the administration has promised to take some actions, there are no deadlines or methods of accountability for following through.
- The statement encouraged Board members to read their Open Letter and List of 13 Demands that were presented in several forums throughout the semester.
- The statement said the administration lacks transparency in how the Diversity Strategic Plan will be implemented, that the DSP is difficult to access on the website and some of the information is on Longwood's blog site, and that there is no clear description of what the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion task force will do.

- Furthermore, the statement expressed outrage that the administration remained silent about the display of the Confederate flag in front of Rotunda during the Heart of Virginia Festival earlier in the fall.
- The aforementioned actions send the message that minority students are “invisible to” and “ignored by” the administration. The statement concluded with “a plea for advocacy and action” from the administration.
- Ms. Marsh-Carter thanked the students for their participation and willingness to be in conversation with the Board. She said she wants to see the 13 demands before she comments further.
- Ms. Harry distributed copies of 13 Demands to Board members.
- Rector Evans thanked the students for coming out. He said the Board had a “lengthy, productive conversation” in their meeting the previous day. He said that while he and the President did not distribute the list of demands to Board members, they discussed students’ concerns and the need for better communication. Addressing the students, he said the “administration and Board of Visitors are viscerally committed to making progress on the issues you brought forward.” He told the students that “it does take time” and “some things may be beyond our control.”
- After ascertaining that the students in attendance were comfortable that she had adequately represented them, Ms. Harry continued her report stating that the research days were a success, students enjoyed the Thanksgiving dinner on campus, and they were looking forward to the late-night breakfast.
- While students are happy to have campus-life back to normal, they have safety concerns about sexual assault and recent thefts. The LUPD had increased rounds on campus.
- The SGA sponsored the Motivote campaign, held a safety walk, and are making progress on their desire to have a forensic nurse at Centra hospital.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. for Board members to listen to caroling in the Rotunda at 11:30. Board members went up and spoke to the students from CHANGE after the meeting adjourned. Two students were holding a long red banner that read: “Now do we have your attention?”