

Report from Board of Visitors Meeting, March 28-29, 2014

Audrey Church

Again, I thank you for the privilege of representing you to the Board of Visitors. What follows is my report from this past weekend's Board meeting, held Friday in the Lancaster Stallard Board Room and Saturday at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts.

The agenda for the meeting can be found at

http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/Agenda_BOV_March2014.pdf

and the full meeting materials at

http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/Materials_BOV_March2014.pdf

Discussion:

Friday Morning—

- Following the welcome by Rector Marianne Radcliff and the Board's approval of the consent agenda, President Reveley gave his report, noting a successful capital campaign, the SACSCOC reaffirmation, the focus on helping students graduate on time, and recent activities at Longwood House. He stated that our strategic plan should be short, sweet, and actionable; that faculty salaries remain high on his list of priorities; and that alumni participation and annual giving is at 11.9% this year (noting that we have 7000 alumni within 10 years out from graduation and that they are a target group for future giving).
- Virginia Kinman was thanked for her hard work with SACSCOC and Franklin Grant, who will retire this summer, for his years of service to Longwood.
- During public comments,
 - Bill Abrams presented the findings from the AAUP salary study.
 - James Ghee asked that Longwood develop goals and timelines for employment of people of color and increase recruitment, retention, and graduation of African American students.
- Bob Burger, President of the Foundation Board, reported an excellent year with total assets of \$73 million.
- David Overstreet reported on internal audits.
- Kathleen Early, President of the Alumni Board, shared information regarding how members are involved in various campus activities and events as well as information regarding alumni awards including a new award to be presented in May 2014 for outstanding student teacher.
- In my report to the Board, I shared that faculty
 - At the undergraduate level,
 - Look forward to implementation of the QEP, R.E.A.L. Inquiry (Detailed information was included in Board materials under Tab 5 and Tab 12.)
 - Have begun to address the revision of general education with the work of the Core Curriculum Committee, chaired by Sharon Emerson-Stonnell (noting the areas that the four subcommittees are currently addressing)
 - At the graduate level,
 - Are proud of the new real estate concentration in the online MBA, approval of the new Master of Education in School Librarianship by SCHEV, and work toward the Master of Education in Reading, Literacy, and Learning
 - All faculty
 - While we realize that work continues on SACS issues, rejoice that the reaffirmation visit brought successful outcomes

- Has had a busy and productive year in Faculty Senate
 - Appreciate the past support that the Board of Visitors has given in addressing salary and salary compression issues but are discouraged that the AAUP report still finds us 11th out of 12 public universities in Virginia in average salary.
- I also shared the results from the faculty and student research survey that I had conducted in early March. (Thanks for all your responses!) Board members seemed very impressed with the breadth and depth of research taking place on both the faculty and student sides. (A copy of the survey results is also attached.)
- Haley Vest, student representative to the Board of Visitors, expressed support for faculty receiving appropriate compensation; noted that research such as that demonstrated by the survey responses and soon-to-be-addressed by R.E.A.L. Inquiry improves students' opportunities for admission to graduate school and for employment; reported on the SGA's budgeting process; and shared information regarding current service events on campus.
- Hannah Ledger and JaBari Scott, representing the staff advisory committee, reported on various staff initiatives.
- General discussion followed on the topics listed below:
 - How far "off" Longwood is in regard to faculty salaries (Range is from \$109,400 for UVA to \$58,300 for UVA-Wise; Longwood is at \$61,400. <http://www.longwood.edu/assets/senate/SalaryStudy13-14.pdf>)
 - The availability of financial aid and scholarships for students
 - The possibility of moving from the current per credit hour charge
 - The need for the strategic plan, possible adoption by the Board in September, to drive the master plan, to be completed by summer/fall 2015
 - The Longwood Athletics Benefit Celebration to be held on October 24
 - The capabilities of Degree Works and how it will assist advisors in looking at the progress of advisees, working toward on-time graduation
 - Issues regarding Title IX (More information under Tab 9.)

Friday Afternoon—

- The Board approved master plan information (More information under Tab 10.)
- Lara Ferguson gave a presentation on faculty initiatives with the Moton Museum, first sharing background information on segregation to integration in Prince Edward County and then describing an interdisciplinary English 400 course that Heather Lettner-Rust, Michael Mergen, and she have taught this semester, combining writing, history, and art. She noted that our campus is bounded on one side by LCVA, a nationally-accredited art museum, and on the other side by the Moton Museum, a national historic landmark.
- Steve Portch facilitated discussion and self-assessment of Board governance.

Saturday Morning—

- Following Executive Session, the Board
 - Announced a change in June Board retreat dates from June 13-14 to June 22-24
 - Discussed tuition and fees for undergraduate students for 2014-2015 (See press release from March 30, http://www.longwood.edu/2014releases_56288.htm)

Please let me know if you have questions or need further information or clarification from this report (churchap@longwood.edu)