

## **President's Advisory Council Meeting**

February 17, 2026; 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Location: Stallard Boardroom

### **Faculty are grateful for...**

- All of our amazing colleagues who ensure our safety and keep essential services running during winter weather.

There was a question asked about if there was any special celebration or thank you to the grounds staff for all their hard work during the winter weather. The President commented that might be a good idea and will investigate.

### **AI & Strategic Planning**

- How will AI be strategically implemented across campus operations, academics, and services?
- Who will be involved in the planning and decision-making process?
- What strategic goals have been identified to guide this work?
- What resources (e.g., training, staffing, funding, infrastructure) will be required to support implementation?

Dr. Bidwell mentioned that she had just read a Gallup poll that had a whole section on Strategic Planning with AI.

The President commented that this is one of several big questions hanging over Higher Ed at the moment. He feels the careful way we are dealing with AI is the right approach. He suggested the “slow bake” and implementation, much like Civitae Curriculum, was working. He was supportive of decisions about AI being at the department level. For other units in the organization (beyond Academic Affairs), there are some small experiments with AI, but they are looking to see what requirements and directives they may get from the state. The President believes AI implementation at the societal level will be much like the implementation of electricity many years ago. It will be gradual until it gets to the point where we can't live without it. The President does not believe at this point we need to fundamentally re-engineer Longwood due to AI at this point. He believes that students will need to leave Longwood with a knowledge of AI that aligns with their jobs, and departments can figure out that pedagogy. He believes students feel more comfortable with where they can use it and where they cannot than they did a few years ago. He believes that the in-person and human instruction we provide here at Longwood are an important part in figuring out how to create an environment where we interact with AI.

The President asked about what was happening with CAFE. Dr. Harvey shared that CAFE's Teaching and Learning Conference this May will be focused on AI, and CAFE has offered sessions and discussions on AI. Additionally, he shared that this is a task much bigger than CAFE or DEC could handle. Discussion also continued about how to provide support for staff in other units beyond Academic Affairs. Dr. Bidwell mentioned that the library is hosting a series of professional development workshops on Wednesdays throughout this semester. The President iterated that there has been experimentation in small ways in various units. The state is driving some of that, so there could be a hazard of being too far out in front until the state figures out how to operationalize that.

Dr. Harvey asked about when the President mentioned students should leave Longwood with AI skills, who is responsible for that instruction? What skills should they leave with?

The President suggested that individual departments/programs and Career Success are at a juncture, so it may be good to make those connections. It does beg the question of the expectations of employers. Maybe Career Success might be a place to look at for some common denominators when it comes to AI.

Dr. Pederson asked whether the department-level decision-making on AI is a trend the President is seeing at other institutions.

The President said he wouldn't say that was a clear trend, but it is certainly a way that many places seem to be going about it. It is rare to find a school at any scale that is making unilateral decisions about AI. It is a new phenomenon that has all kinds of layers. Those who support AI say that it isn't limiting human connections; opponents would say the opposite. The President just doesn't see the university making central decisions about AI and doesn't see the obvious ways to make those standards across the campus. People who are interested can pursue AI and those uninterested don't have to yet. It will become harder and harder for the uninterested as the years go by just as it was for the Internet in the 90s.

Dr. Pederson talked about cheating with AI and how faculty deal with it, and said there is much variability. Some faculty aren't even considering it cheating if AI writes the paper. She is worried about how we are using it and, especially, the ethical component. Faculty members in the meeting shared that their experiences with AI are becoming difficult. Examples include students using AI to write whole papers, submitting postings and documents that contain material not covered in class or expected at higher levels of education. Students often have no understanding of what they have submitted because they have taken it straight from AI. Students are in the wild west and trying to get away with what they can. It is obvious that students are using it even when they are told not to on certain assignments. We see a lot of students turn in stuff from AI that they can't explain to their instructor.

The President said it's a huge riddle out there; the productivity possibilities with AI are obvious. A 35-year-old student who was taught how to think, write, etc., traditionally will be fine in the world with AI. What we need to figure out is the 15-year-old who does not have those skills, but has access to AI.

Dr. Woznyj mentioned she had glanced at a study from Harvard that said maybe AI isn't making us productive, but causing more work. This is why the President isn't sure this will really upset the world order.

Dr. Bidwell asked about where we are with strategic planning overall, since our university's Strategic Plan is dated 2019-2025, and the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan covers 2023-2026.

President Reveley said, as was discussed at UPC – the political climate suggests that patience is a virtue. We are looking to see how it all shakes out in the next couple of months. It is likely something for next academic year. The Board continues to think about strategic things, and the state is thinking strategically. The General Assembly only meets from Jan-Mar. We are in the adjustment of a new governor, and the General Assembly is working with new ideas. So there is a lot of shaking out taking place. Laws will get passed and not take effect until July 1<sup>st</sup>, which creates a prolonged period of thinking about strategic plans.

He believes in the accreditation process, which is under tension at the federal level, so it is good we got our SACSCOC process completed in 2024 because we are in good order for the next decade. There is “tons of getting your ducks in a row for that process.” We got the SACSCOC seal of approval, and that can help with getting through this storm. We are really lucky that the Board of Visitors deeply cares about Longwood.

The President asked if we had seen other universities that had a good plan with AI? He also asked how often AI was on faculty minds. The Faculty reiterated the need for support beyond what we have, and that it is almost a daily topic/issue for faculty. Dr. Pederson said that the ethical implications of AI use in various settings are particularly challenging, and an AI ethics expert could be valuable across campus. The President agreed we should figure out a way to bring some speakers to campus and have some substantive engagement on the topic – particularly with faculty – but also with the whole university community.

## **2024 LU Audit**

- What is the current status of the 2024 [Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts](#) audit for Longwood University?
- When can we expect the audit to be completed and publicly posted, given that some institutions have already released their 2025 audits?

Dr. Bidwell presented the questions above and also asked why the 2024 audit—a year that was financially tumultuous at LU—has been delayed. President Reveley said the VAPA is close to posting our 2024 audit. The scale of the bigger university (e.g., UVA, Virginia Tech, VCU) audits are material to the state’s overall finances so they are typically done within 6 months of the close of the fiscal year. Other universities are on a timeline of a year to year and a half. VAPA does speed that up for universities going through their SACS reaccreditation, so our 2023 was done in 7 months. However, the subsequent year after an accreditation review VAPA is slower in completing the audit for that university. The President expects that our 2024 audit will likely be published in the next month or so. He suggested that 2025 would be a customary window of a year to a year and a half.

## **Progress Report on Issues Raised in Previous Meetings**

### *Board of Visitors (BOV) Meetings*

- Faculty have expressed concerns about the increased number of regular BOV meetings being held off campus, which can limit access for faculty and students. What are the plans for the March BOV meeting location?
- How might participation in basketball tournaments affect the meeting’s location this year?

The President anticipates that the March meeting will be as normal in the Stallard Ballroom. He agreed that it may be wise to avoid the basketball tournament in the future, but there are concerns about approving Promotion & Tenure in the appropriate window that must be considered. Dr. Bidwell said that faculty and staff would likely be troubled if the March meeting was held off-campus again this year, given that the September meeting also was off-campus and inaccessible to visitors.

### *Adjunct Contracts*

- What procedures are now in place to ensure adjunct faculty receive their contracts before the start of the semester so they can be paid on time?

The President said that generating contracts for faculty was a new practice this year. It is a good thing to have contracts for our hardworking adjuncts, but the shift in practice caused the delay in the fall. Now that contracts are part of the process, it worked better for the spring semester and it will move forward that way.

### *Tuition Waiver for Dependents*

- Last fall we asked about the possibility of a tuition waiver for faculty and staff dependents. What have we learned so far about how many dependents are enrolled and any policy or legal considerations that might affect this option?

The president said he is intrigued by this idea. There are some state-level constraints on what we can do; however, the President is encouraged at the thought of what Longwood might be able to do. Currently, the comprehensive fee gets reduced for faculty and staff dependents. He wondered if that could be made broader. We don't have a lot of faculty or staff dependents who take advantage of that, but it could be a nice incentive. Dr. Bidwell explained that the current waiver of the comprehensive fee may not be enticing enough to attract faculty and staff dependents to apply to Longwood, particularly if other schools are offering larger discounts or scholarships. However, a tuition waiver would likely significantly increase the number of faculty and staff families who would apply to Longwood.

The President is not sure how quickly we can get it figured out based on the state-level policy. It might not be 2026-27, but hopefully, this might be something for the 27-28 academic year.

The faculty suggested that a tuition waiver could be a faculty recruiting tool, too.

#### *Campus Communication*

- What progress has been made on creating a more consistent, centralized way to share information about parking lot closures and upcoming campus or town events?

The President is committed to trying to make this happen. There is not much update to report on this area at this point.

Questions for us:

We are in such a tough political moment with different leaders from different parties at the state and federal level. The President has been proud of how Longwood has stayed strong during these times and has every expectation that we'll keep figuring it out.

Dr. Harvey asked about any thoughts on the state budget. The President believes it will come out on time. The issues with Medicaid in the 2028 budget will be ones for the legislators to grapple with that will impact how the Commonwealth spends its funds.