

## **Report from the September 8 - 10, 2016 Board of Visitors Meeting**

### **Lissa Power-deFur, Ph.D., Faculty Representative**

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

Rector Wertz welcomed the new Board members and guests. He commented that he is looking to sharing future Board materials through either paper or electronic means and that the BOV appreciates the weekly news blasts from the President. He mentioned that the President's contract expires in 2019 and the BOV plans to negotiate a new contract by December.

The BOV approved the Consent Agenda (Edits, Updates, and Amendments Regarding Policy, Procedure and Planning) which included:

- approval of the Exercise Science degree program;
- approval of the Health and Physical Education degree program;
- approval of two FY 2017 course fees; and,
- approval of minor revisions to non-discrimination policy and to sexual misconduct policy.

In his report, President Reveley commented on the 30 courses Longwood faculty are offering this fall related to the debate or election, some of which are pilots for the general education reform. Approximately 1000 students are enrolled in one of these courses. He noted that the debate has served as an opportunity for connections with the local community.

Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs discussed the university's response to the fire and praised the police officers who ensured that all students were evacuated (Sgt. Whitt and Officer Shuler).

Joan Neff, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, introduced Deans Roger Byrne (Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences) and Brent Roberts (Greenwood Library). She continued with her report (Tab 5 of the Board materials), highlighting the following:

- division of the Exercise Science and Health and Physical Education programs;
- hiring of her new Director of Budget, Shun Qin;
- the many courses and special events departments have generated surrounding the debate;
- the Cybersecurity Summit (which will benefit student scholarships);
- the Early Childhood Development Initiative;
- the Graduate Task Force;
- the Summer Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (SURI) program; and,
- the growth in LCVA's attendance.

BOV members asked about enrollment at New College Institute, the status of the Dean search for the College of Business and Economics, the growth of the MBA program, the status of Longwood's ability to use Hull Springs Farm, and the university's plan for students with dual enrollment.

Courtney Hodges, Vice President of Institutional Advancement presented her report (Tab 8 of the meeting materials), which included the following.

- There has been a 24% increase in total donors over the prior fiscal year and total annual giving was over \$1.2 million, the largest since 2008. There has also been an increase in alumni participation; and,
- Jen Cox, Longwood's new Director of Local and Community Relations, is building relationships with local business and community partners.

The BOV members asked about how our donations compare with comparable institutions. (We are slightly higher than James Madison and Radford, but below Virginia Tech, William and Mary and private schools.) The BOV asked about the size of the endowment (\$50 million, \$70 million if include property and art, cash reserves of \$30 million).

Troy Austin, Director of Athletics, presented his report (Tab 7 of the meeting materials), which included a discussion of fall team season preview and the Jerome Kersey Court Naming Ceremony on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

Ken Copeland, Vice President of Administration and Finance presented his report (Tab 6 of the meeting materials), which included an update on capital projects, property acquisitions, and operations.

BOV members asked about the budget for the debate, including information about spending related to the Master Plan that has occurred thus far.

Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs, presented his report (Tab 10 of the meeting materials), noting that the Graduate Student Advisory Council is now a separate organization with the ability to manage its own budget.

The BOV members asked about Longwood's Title IX implementation.

Victoria Kindon, Vice President of Strategic Operations presented her report (Tab 9 of the meeting materials), which included the following:

- Longwood's four-year graduate rate rose above 50% for the first time;
- the web revitalization project is coming to fruition;
- University career services has been revamped; and,
- IT data protection services.

Following reports from the Vice Presidents, representatives to the Board of Visitors who were present offered their reports.

- Rector Wertz provided the report from the Foundation, reporting that the Foundation is reviewing how to structure the position after Hazel Duncan's retirement. Additionally, the Foundation has identified the importance of reviewing gifts (e.g., real estate)
- Kendall Lee, President of the Alumni Association, reported on initiatives to enhance alumni engagement, including the ring program and the annual Alumni Award banquet.
- Dillon Yonker, SGA President, reported on SGA activities associated with the debate.

- Betty Bass, representing the Staff Advisory Council, reported on activities to increase staff engagement.
- Representing the faculty, I reported that I had been re-elected by the faculty to serve as the faculty representative for the 2016-17 academic year. I recognized the passing of our dear colleague Bill Stuart, 4 years ago that day, and expressed appreciation for faculty raises and staff bonuses, given that the General Assembly had rescinded its funding for state employee raises. I then provided an overview of faculty activity during the summer. These included the number of classes taught (over 340), examples of travel experiences (Guatemala, Alaska, France, Spain, and Carnegie Hall), grants, consulting, workshops, summer residencies, research, summer camps for children, and active military duty.

Some members of the BOV commented on how much they enjoy hearing about what the faculty are doing.

The Board had lunch with students and had a tour of the new residence halls and the media center for the debate.

After lunch, the Board members discussed the upcoming debate and various events. Lara Ferguson gave an update on the status of the Academic Core Curriculum Committee. The BOV requested the Committee to bring student feedback to the next meeting.

The Board then moved to Executive Session.

On Saturday morning, members of the BOV met with representatives of local government (Gerald Spates, David Whitus, Megan Clark, Wade Bartlett, and Sarah Puckett) for an open discussion of university-community relations. This was the first time such community representatives have met with the Board of Visitors. They discussed the following topics:

- The visitFarmville.com website;
- possible creation of a regional economic development plan; and
- various Farmville/Prince Edward initiatives.

I shared that some young faculty have told me that there are limited opportunities for young children in the area. This generated significant discussion among members of the BOV and representatives of the community.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lissa Power-deFur, Ph.D.  
 Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders  
 Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors, 2016-17