

Report from the December 1 - 3, 2016 Board of Visitors Meeting

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

The Board of Visitors' December 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 members and guests. He complimented the university on the success of the Vice Presidential debate.

The Board unanimously approved a second 5-year contract for President Reveley (through 2023).

The BOV approved the Consent Agenda (Tab 4 of the meeting materials - Edits, Updates, and Amendments Regarding Policy, Procedure and Planning) which included:

- Approval of Master of Education in Counselor Education
- Approval of Candidates for Emeriti Status
- Approval of Revisions the Sexual Misconduct Policy (changing Jennifer Fraley to Lindsey Moran under Reporting Options)
- Approved Housing and Dining Fees 2017-18
- Approved naming of Elizabeth Burger Jackson Field

In his report, President Reveley recognized the recent donation from the Brock family and Paul Barrett's contribution of Dean of the College of Business and Economics.

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

- Brock Endowment for Transformational Learning
- Dedication of Sharp and Register Halls and Jackson Field
- Anticipates \$8.5 million in donations by December 31
- The second Annual Day of Giving will be February 21, with a goal of 1839 donors and \$100,000. This will coincide with faculty/staff giving and Lancer madness kick off.

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

- Reunions weekend is planned for June 2 – 4, with a family friendly event on January 14 (with athletics)
- While speaking at conference in London, Ryan Catherwood held an alumni event.
- Financial aid will be offered earlier for 2017 entering students.
- The selection of the Admissions Director will be finalized by winter break.

The BOV engaged in some discussion on the effectiveness of university marketing and efforts to increase the yield (persons who make a deposit).

Troy Austin, Director of Athletics, presented his report (Tab 7 of the meeting materials), which included:

- Accolades for individual athletes and for teams (Fall 2016 was Longwood's best fall in its Division 1 history)
- David Whitus (Longwood's mayor) hosted an athletic event for the local community
- The Jerome Kersey dedication will be on Saturday with his family in attendance. A scholarship will be offered in his name, with a gift from the Portland Trailblazers.
- Shirley Duncan's jersey will be retired at a game on Jan 28.

Ken Copeland, Vice President of Administration and Finance, presented his report (Tab 6 of the meeting materials), which included an update on capital projects and General Fund appropriations. A reduction is anticipated (approximately \$326,000).

The BOV discussed how the university could absorb this reduction. Mr. Copeland and President Reveley felt it could be absorbed easily as the university typically has a surplus at year-end.

Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs presented his report (Tab 10 of the meeting materials), which included the following.

- Security Magazine rates Longwood 15 (out of 500) in university security.
- A bias response team is in place.
- Currently 9 percent of the undergraduate population is receiving Disability Resource services.

In response to a question from the BOV, Mr. Pierson noted that housing was down in fall 2016, but he anticipates it will increase next year.

Joan Neff, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented her report (Tab 5 of the Board materials), highlighting the following:

- Faculty's debate-related courses, highlighting the team work of Mike Mergen and Jeff Halliday.
- Recognition of Paul Barrett's services as Dean of the College of Business and Economics.
- The successful Cyber Security Summit that generated \$18,000 in scholarships.
- Plans to increase the number of graduate assistantships.
- Status of the early childhood initiative (plans to open a 50-child early childhood program at "The Yard" in spring 2017).
- Longwood will be well represented at the SACSCOC conference with seven participants/presenters.

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

- Mike Lewandowski provided the report from the Foundation, noting that the BOV will be receiving some by-laws changes in the future. The new CFO for the Foundation, Sharon Payne, will be starting in December.

- Kendall Lee, President of the Alumni Association, reported on initiatives to enhance alumni engagement, including participation in the Virginia Children’s Book Festival and the Annual Day of Giving.
- Dillon Yonker, SGA President, introduced Meredith Peck, representing the Graduate Student Association. He reported on student interest in keeping the library open until 1 or 2 am.

The BOV engaged in a discussion of access and safety. Dean Roberts is currently investigating the feasibility of this request.

- Stephanie Carwhile, representing the Staff Advisory Council, reported that their fund-raising has enabled full funding of requests for reimbursement for books for staff taking classes at Longwood.
- Representing the faculty, I reported on the recent votes at Faculty Senate to support the Academic Core Curriculum. When asked if the faculty was unencumbered by outside interference I responded affirmatively. I noted that the faculty committee was outstanding. It met regularly with faculty during the development of the curriculum, responded to faculty input, and created a high quality product.

I highlighted the faculty’s involvement within the professional associations. Representing 39 responses to my request for information, Longwood faculty are involved in 21 Virginia associations, 33 national associations, 4 international association and 22 journals. The organizations range in size from 500 – 187,000 members. Faculty roles include President, members of the Boards of Directors, Delegates/Councilors, Committee Chairs, committee members, journal editors, and journal reviewers. These activities enhance Longwood’s reputation among the academic community.

The Board had lunch with members of the Academic Core Curriculum Committee.

After lunch, the Lara Fergeson and Sharon Emerson-Stonnell provided an overview of the Academic Core Curriculum. As a result of the presentation, the Board members discussed faculty-teaching load (class size and number of classes). The members also discussed how Longwood compares with other institutions in revising its general education program and opportunities for highlighting these changes to future students.

The Board then moved to Executive Session.

On Saturday morning, members of the BOV met with Doug Lederman, Editor of *Inside Higher Education*. He provides a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of higher education. He highlighted the anticipated drop in enrollment through 2023 for high school graduates, noting that there will be an increase in students attending college who have not traditionally been served well in higher education. He also addressed taxation trends (Americans’ disinclination to pay taxes) and the public’s doubts as to whether higher education is “worth it.” Institutions of higher education will increasingly be required to demonstrate students’ progress in their critical thinking skills.

The Board's discussion addressed research regarding higher education leadership that does not come from "the academy," preparation of higher education leaders, flaws in institutional rankings, public perceptions about the cost of higher education and "return on investment," and college debt.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors, 2016-17