

## **Report from the December, 2015 Board of Visitors Meeting**

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

The December meeting of the Board of Visitors was held in the Stallard Board Room, Lancaster Hall on Friday December 4, 2015. The agenda for the meeting can be found at [http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/BOV\\_Schedule\\_Dec\\_2015.pdf](http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/BOV_Schedule_Dec_2015.pdf). Board meeting materials can be found at [http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/BOV\\_Binder\\_Dec\\_2015.pdf](http://www.longwood.edu/assets/president/BOV_Binder_Dec_2015.pdf).

I attended the meeting on December 4 and the Master Plan Exhibit and Reception on December 3.

- Rector Margiloff welcomed the Board members and guests, noting that this was an especially busy time for students and faculty.
- The Board approved the minutes from the September meeting (Tab 3 in the meeting materials).
- The Board approved the consent agenda (Tab 4 in the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - FY2016 Annual SWaM Procurement Plan
  - Naming resolution for Jack's Room in Speech, Hearing, and Learning Services Center and the Jerome Kersey Basketball court
  - Approve acquisition of property from the Longwood University Foundation
  - Proposed housing and dining fees for 2016-17.
- In his report, President Reveley noted the following:
  - The Board of Visitors held its first joint meeting with Farmville's Town Council.
  - The Master Plan is highlighted at an exhibit at LCVA and will be the focus of Longwood's holiday video.
  - The Academic Core Curriculum, a faculty-driven effort, is moving forward.
  - The student body is 35 percent more diverse in 2015 than in fall 2012, yet we have not seen comparable increases in faculty and staff.
  - Longwood's affiliation at Moton is bearing fruit with increased student participation at the museum and a positive response within the community.
  - The University Planning Council has been reframed and will have a vibrant committee structure, including a diversity committee.
    - Dr. Neff noted that at the most recent meeting of Faculty Senate, Quincy Goodine, representing the Black Student Alliance, spoke with the faculty requesting their active involvement in student efforts to address diversity.
- Joan Neff, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs presented her report (Tab 5 of the meeting materials), that included the following.
  - How impressed she is with the dedicated faculty and staff who have a strong work ethic and are dedicated to working with the students.

- The subcommittee studying faculty workload is making progress and has received input from Deans and Chairs to develop a more balanced workload.
- There are 79 applicants for the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences Dean's position.
- The Early Childhood Development Initiative is moving forward and Dr. Sara Miller, Administrative Director, was introduced. Dr. Miller described the three-pronged plans to provide some child care on campus, to provide "upskill" training to local child-care providers and parents, and eventually to roll out a comprehensive early childhood education program
- The study abroad program has a goal of increasing the number of students participating.
- Ken Copeland, Vice President of Administration and Finance presented his report (Tab 6 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - Update on Capital projects, including construction on the Upchurch University Center, Register and Sharp Residence Hall, Student Success Center, Admissions Building, and New Academic Building. Some near-term campus enhancement projects are underway, the campus landscape improvements along Longwood's High Street frontage and Willett Hall Façade Renovation.
  - The Real Estate Foundation has executed an MOU to invest in the Weyanoke hotel renovation project and acquired the Archaeological Field School Station in Clover Va.
  - Members of the Board of Visitors asked about efforts to continue to address faculty salaries. Mr. Copeland indicated that he and Dr. Neff continue to discuss approaches.
- Troy Austin, Director of Athletics presented his report (Tab 7 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - Update on the Athletics Leadership Development.
  - His initial research on securing a minor league baseball franchise to Farmville.
- Courtney Hodges, Vice President of Institutional Advancement presented her report (Tab 8 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - Calendar year-end campaigns are resulting increased donors and dollars.
- Victoria Kindon, Vice President of Strategic Operations presented her report (Tab 9 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - The search for an admissions director is beginning.
  - Applications are up 29% for Fall 2016, in comparison with Fall 2015; including an increase in out-of-state applicants (from 180 to 500). The number of applicants with a 3.75 GPA or higher is up by 20%. Ms. Kindon credited the value of working with an external firm and starting the process sooner.
  - The Writing Center has a full-time director.
  - Social media's response to the Vice President debate was significant, with over 500,000 persons seeing mention via Facebook.
  - Debate logo and graphics are posted on the website for all Longwood faculty and staff use.

- Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs presented his report (Tab 10 of the meeting materials), which included the following:
  - Training initiatives for alcohol, drugs, and sexual misconduct have seen a completion rate of 98%. The concept of “see something, do something” is highlighted for students.
- Following reports from the Vice Presidents, representatives to the Board of Visitors offered their reports.
  - Student Government Association President, Constance Garner, spoke to the SGA’s involvement with initiatives to address diversity and bias. She reported that the SGA is looking into offering LSAT and GRE prep courses at Longwood.
  - Representing the faculty, I spoke further on the recent Faculty Senate discussion on race, noting Faculty Senate’s genuine interest in moving forward in the right direction. Regarding the work of the Academic Core Curriculum Committee, I noted that faculty members are impressed with the quality of the committee. Many are engaged with the change and questions are often related to issues related to caring for students, such as the impact on transfer students. I reported on graduate faculty, noting that Longwood has 109 graduate faculty in seven different graduate programs. Graduate faculty would welcome an expansion in the small number of graduate assistantships – a key issue in persuading graduate students to select Longwood. Longwood graduate faculty in four programs teach across the state. Graduate faculty have mentored graduate students making presentation in multiple state and national conferences.
  - Kendall Lee, President the Alumni Board reported on Longwoodnetwork.com, a new network to foster connections between alumni and other students. The platform is open to the public and will be launched early in 2016. He noted the significant growth in events with lifelong learning themes
  - Parker Nixon, the President of the Staff Advisory Committee, spoke to the funds raised to provide textbook reimbursement for staff taking classes.
- During lunch, Board members met in their strategic priority subgroups: Retention and Graduation, National Marketing, Foot Traffic by Alumni and Friends, Prosperity of One of America’s Oldest Two-College Communities, Strengthening the University Community, and Organizations, Structuring, and Governance. The board members reported out following lunch.
- President Reveley outlined three challenges to the Vice Presidential Debate: 1) how will we use the debate to advance our strategic priorities 2) the events around and leading up to the debate and 3) the event itself.
  - The Board received a report from Jeff Chidester on Vice President Debate (see Tab 11 of the materials), including information on meetings with the Commission on Presidential Debates, and on connections with Centre College.
  - The Board members discussed planning, coordination with local and regional officials.
- Dr. Lara Fergeson provided an update on the General Education Revision from the Academic Core Curriculum Committee (found in Tab 5 in materials). She highlighted that the goal of the revision curriculum is to tie the curriculum more closely to our University

mission and focus on transforming our students into citizen leaders. She provided an overview of the model that is forming: a foundational level (including seminars on citizenship and writing/rhetoric; foundation/pillar courses; perspectives courses to integrate information from across disciplines; and a capstone symposium on the common good. Dr. Fergeson reported on engagement of faculty, student affairs staff, and students in the process.

- Mrs. Busser began a discussion about transfer credits, an issue that the committee is address.
- Rector Margiloff asked about opportunities for alternate foreign languages for students with processing difficulties. Use of Latin and American Sign Language were discussed. The Board also discussed the possibility of adding Arabic and/or Chinese.
- The Board members discussed the importance of branding and marketing the new curriculum to ensure parents and students understand it.
- The Board of Visitors meeting concluded with an Executive Session, following by a Pre-Concert Reception with invited donors.

Submitted by:

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Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors, 2015-16