

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
June 11, 2021
Minutes

Call to Order

The Longwood University Board of Visitors met on Friday, June 11, 2021 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Rector Eric Hansen.

Members present:

Mr. Eric Hansen
Mr. Michael Evans
Ms Katharine Bond
Mr. Larry Palmer
Ms. Polly Raible
Ms. Cookie Scott
Mrs. Nadine Marsh-Carter
Mr. David Hallock
Ms. Colleen Margiloff
Mrs. Eileen Anderson
Mr. Steven Gould
Ms. Pia Trigiani

Also present:

President W. Taylor Reveley IV
Mr. Justin Pope, Vice President and Chief of Staff
Mr. Cameron O’Brion, University Counsel
Dr. Larissa Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Louise Waller, Vice President for Administration and Finance
Ms. Victoria Kindon, Vice President for Strategic Operations
Ms. Courtney Hodges, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Ms. Emily O’Brion, Director of Government Relations
Mr. Cameron Patterson, Executive Director of the Moton Museum

Rector’s Welcome and Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda:

On the occasion of his final meeting as a Board member, Rector Hansen gave remarks of gratitude and appreciation after nearly 10 years of service to Longwood, including memories of the Vice Presidential Debate, meeting graduation speakers, and introducing his family to Longwood, and many others. He thanked Longwood staff, the vice presidents, and fellow Board members, individually. He said he was confident in Longwood’s future in the hands of those assembled, and encouraged them, as he had also told graduates at Commencement, to be bold

and courageous. He thanked President Reveley for his friendship and said Longwood has a great future under his leadership.

Ms. Margiloff, former Rector, whose board term was also concluding, said she was in awe of the Longwood people and their service to students. She said Longwood is an incredible place with incredible people, a place she considers a home. She thanked her fellow Board members and said it had been a privilege to serve. She said her parting advice was to find ways to spend time with Longwood students, which she has found immensely rewarding.

President Reveley remarked this is the first in-person gathering of the Board in 18 months, since December 2019. Being the rector of a University is hard work, and both Rector Hansen and Rector Margiloff have in profound ways made the Alma Mater what it is. He noted the first meeting under Mrs. Margiloff as rector saw the adoption of the Statement of Apology, which has been momentous in solidifying the University's partnership with the Moton Museum; who could have thought six years later Barbara Johns would join George Washington as Virginia's second statue in the U.S. Capitol. There was also work preparing for the Vice Presidential Debate and the Master Plan. Thanks to their leadership we are in a strong position to continue moving forward.

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Evans so moved, Ms. Raible seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President Reveley noted the Board had been circulated a self-evaluation survey for completion in advance, which was also an opportunity for review of the University's Mission Statement. There was discussion in some detail regarding the responses to the individual questions on the survey. The Rector noted the responses indicate Board members are generally pleased with meetings, and affirm support for the University's Mission Statement. Regarding the survey question about protecting the University from undue external influence, President Reveley noted this is a key aspect of any governing board's work, though a board is always a complex intermediary for the many constituencies of a University, something especially true in facing the disruptions of Covid.

Covid Response Update

Regarding Covid-19, President Reveley said the University proved it can operate under extreme challenges. He noted the report to the Board of Visitors that captured for history the events of the past year, and conveyed both the helter-skelter chaos of the last year and array of challenges Longwood was forced to meet. In response to a question, Ms. Kindon said one of the most positive aspects of the year was the camaraderie among employees in the face of great challenge, giving one another grace but also performing at a very high level. President Reveley emphasized how much the experience and muscle-memory from the Vice Presidential Debate played a role in Longwood's success for the year. Dr. Smith said the best part for her was watching her faculty colleagues rise to the occasion, working harder than they ever had. Ms. Hodges said it was rewarding for vice presidents to help one another solve challenges. Ms. Waller said she has never felt more appreciative of the wonderful group she works with. Mr. Pope said it was rewarding,

and will prove consequential for the long-run, how profoundly Longwood had demonstrated its commitment to in-person learning with a successful school year.

Tuition and Budget Update

Ms. Waller said she was proud Longwood was proposing to be among the Virginia institutions holding tuition flat this year. The small proposed comprehensive fee increase is mostly to support additional expenses related to Potomac Healthcare. She reminded the Board that out-of-state tuition has been reduced. Mr. Hansen congratulated her team on presenting a budget that keeps tuition flat, considering the financial impact of the pandemic on many families. Ms. Waller noted one of the funded initiatives is an investment in out-of-state admissions recruiting, based on a business plan that includes clear metrics to measure success. Ms. Kindon further explained the strategy around the initiative and how it complements the reduction in out-of-state tuition. She noted new hires will be physically located in the assigned recruiting areas, which have been carefully researched and selected. She described the plan in detail and noted it is a template for broader budget planning across campus, with its careful planning process and milestone markers that will be used to evaluate the investment. Topics of continuing discussion included the impact of the changes in SAT optional policies nationally.

Returning to the Operating Plan, Ms. Waller indicated Covid is a continuing factor and we will have continued lost revenue, but generous state and federal funding prepares us well for this current budget. The Virginia General Assembly has played a critically important role in making this budget possible, including help with building and upgrade expenses. She touched on areas of investment, including out-of-state recruiting, and the Civitae Core Curriculum. She noted one correction to the budget as proposed: the correct figure for faculty promotion is \$28,500, not \$5,000. She also noted investments in partnership with the REF in the housing portfolio, and with Aramark on dining.

Overall, the University projects an increase of about \$5 million in state funding and grants, while being down slightly in tuition and housing. The state-mandated 5 percent raises and return of full salaries are a meaningful expense but are addressed. On the auxiliary side, we have negotiated with the Real Estate Foundation to reduce the number of beds in use next year, saving the University approximately \$2 million. She thanked and commended all of the vice presidents who, amidst Covid, worked hard to find efficiencies and work smarter. Next year will have its challenges, she said, but she said she is confident the University can work through the challenges, with this budget serving as a strong blue print and set of guardrails.

She also provided an overview of the Capital Plan, which includes two main components: Maintenance Reserve (under \$3 million), and Capital Projects (over \$3 million). She noted the plan also reports on REF projects. Projects in the pipeline include the Joan Perry Brock Center, the Wygal Replacement Building, renovations to the Andy Taylor Center, and Hull Springs Farm. Mr. Evans suggested with new people coming onto the Board soon it might be a good time to review the Campus Master Plan. President Reveley noted how critical and helpful it has been during Covid to have such good relationships with Farmville and the local community. He said he has been very encouraged working with the new Prince Edward County administrator Doug Stanley.

Mr. Hallock offered a motion to approve tuition and fees as presented to the Board, and to approve the proposed Capital and Operating Budgets as presented to the Board in writing and by Ms. Waller. Mr. Evans seconded. All members present voted to approve the motion except Mr. Gould, who abstained.

Elections

Mr. Hallock, chair of the nominating committee, introduced the following slate of proposed officers for the 2021-22 year: Pia Trigiani as Rector; Mike Evans as Vice-Rector; Eileen Anderson as Secretary, and Katharine Bond as at-large member of the Executive Committee.

President Reveley as the presiding officer during elections invited discussion, and asked members for a vote to approve the nominated slate. Members voted unanimously to approve the slate. Ms. Trigiani thanked the Board for their confidence and trust, and thanked her predecessors.

President Reveley noted it is unusual and poignant to have two current or former Rectors completing their service at the same time, and read a prepared resolution for each.

President Reveley also presented to Ms. Margiloff and Mr. Hansen replicas of Longwood's official medallion, to rounding applause.

Ms. Anderson departed the meeting to attend previously scheduled business matters.

Mr. Evans asked for a motion pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1) that the Board convene in closed session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel. Ms. Trigiani so moved, Mr. Hallock seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was offered by Ms. Trigiani to return to open session. Mr. Hallock seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. In compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the Board returned to open session. Mr. Evans moved that the board certify by roll call vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, 1) only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed, and 2) only matters identified in the motion for closed session were discussed. Ms. Bond seconded, and all members in attendance voted by roll call to certify: Mrs. Raible, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Margiloff, Mrs. Marsh-Carter, Ms. Scott, Ms. Trigiani, Ms. Bond, Mr. Hallock, Mr. Hansen and Mr. Gould.

The Board strongly commended President Reveley on his leadership of the University. Mr. Hallock moved that the Board delegate to Mr. Hansen authority to provide the feedback and review of the Board to President Reveley and to update his contract, following the historic academic year of 2020-21, during the global pandemic. Ms. Trigiani seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.