

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pastides Alumni Center
Columbia, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Don Scott

Other Members of the Board in Attendance:

Robert Barber
Holly Bracknell
Linda Dolny
Marcia Hydrick
Catherine Lee
Don Lloyd
Peggy Makins
Terry Pruitt
Robert Sabalis
Angela Strickland
Mark Taylor
Anne Walker

Absent: John Craig, Ray Hunt, Jim Shubert

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Jim Colbert, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Joe Greenthal, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Adam Taylor, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Dr. Amanda Darden, Vice President for Student Experience and Quality Assurance; Todd Gambill, Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Brian Apfel, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; and Sadie Erwin, Executive Assistant to the President.

Guests: Mya Atten, of the Index-Journal.

Chair Scott called the meeting to order.

The chair then recognized Adam Taylor, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Adam Taylor stated for the record that appropriate publicity had been disseminated in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, and that the meeting was in compliance with that Act.

Adam Taylor also reminded trustees that the next meeting of the Lander University Board of Trustees would take place Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Commencement ceremonies are scheduled for the following day, Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Don Lloyd made the motion to approve the December 11, 2024 board meeting minutes; seconded by Bob Sabalis.

The board meeting minutes from September 10, 2024 were approved by unanimous vote.

II. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Scott made an announcement that board member DeWitt Stone resigned from the Board of Trustees effective February 28, 2025.

A. Nominating Committee

Pursuant to Rule 4.1 of the Bylaws of the Lander University Board of Trustees, Chair Scott appointed the following three members to the Nominating Committee:

1. Marcia Hydrick
2. Linda Dolny
3. John Craig

This committee will submit a slate of nominees for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees during the meeting on May 6, 2025.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to time constraints, only committees with action items were called upon to present items to the full Board of Trustees for approval. Other committees provided written reports to the full Board of Trustees.

A. Academic Affairs

Robert Barber shared updates with the Board of Trustees from the Academic Affairs Committee report. The committee brought forward the following action items:

1. New Program: Communication (B.A.)

Lander University seeks to offer a B.A. in Communication through traditional and hybrid environments on its main campus. Lander believes that success for a career in Communication most likely results from a strong foundation in both written and oral communication skills and from an educational program that permits students to apply what they have learned through experiential learning opportunities with campus publications and internships. Lander's program would give students a wide array of course options that connect disciplines together so that graduates are prepared to succeed as communication professionals in business, government, healthcare, media, public relations, or with non-profits.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. New Programs: Marketing (B.S.) and Management (B.S.)

Background: Lander University currently offers a BS in Business Administration (BSBA) with an emphasis in Management/Marketing. Throughout the university's history, this joint management/marketing emphasis has allowed it to responsibly utilize limited faculty resources while providing students with broad exposure to these two essential business disciplines. However, as enrollment trends have evolved and the subfields within management have expanded, the time is now right to separate this dual emphasis into separate Bachelor of Science in Management and Bachelor of Science in Marketing degree programs.

By proposing separate BS in Management and BS in Marketing degree programs, the university aims to provide distinct, in-depth curricula that better align with current student interests and the evolving demands of the workforce. This strategic shift will enable students to gain specialized knowledge in their chosen field, thereby enhancing their

professional preparedness and contributing to their long-term success in their chosen field. The College of Business seeks to create a cohesive framework by grouping several existing management-focused BSBA emphasis areas into concentrations under the BS in Management, including Healthcare Management, IT Management, Hospitality Management, and Sport Management.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Enrollment and Access Management / Student Experience and Quality Assurance

Angela Strickland shared updates with the Board of Trustees that can be found in the Enrollment and Access Management / Student Experience and Quality Assurance Committee report.

C. Finance, Facilities, and Audit / Governmental and Strategic Initiatives

Don Lloyd shared updates with the Board of Trustees that can be found in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit / Governmental and Strategic Initiatives Committee report. The committee brought forward the following action items:

1. Housing Rates for FY 2025/26 and FY 2026/27

The proposal included adjustments to costs determined by amenities offered in certain housing options, in relationship to all room offerings.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Meal Plans for FY 2025/26

The proposal included an increase by 4.5% due to contractual obligations to grow in relationship to CPI – Food Away from Home.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

D. Institutional Advancement

Holly Bracknell shared updates with the Board of Trustees that can be found in the Enrollment and Access Management Committee report.

E. Dean of Students / Intercollegiate Athletics

Cathy Lee shared updates with the Board of Trustees that can be found in the Dean of Students / Intercollegiate Athletics Committee report.

F. Policy

Bob Sabalis shared updates with the Board of Trustees that can be found in the Policy Committee report. The committee brought forward the following action items:

1. Fire Prevention and Safety

The purpose of the Fire Prevention and Safety Policy is to create a plan designed to protect lives and property on the Lander University campus.

2. Flammable Liquids and Chemical Storage

The purpose of the Flammable and Chemical Storage Policy is to protect lives and property

on the Lander University campus.

3. Hot Work Safety

The purpose of the Hot Work Safety Policy is to create a Fire Safety Plan designed to protect people and property while performing hot work on the Lander University campus and to ensure compliance with OSHA standards.

4. Personal Protective Equipment

The purpose of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy is to protect Lander University employees from recognized hazards when hazards cannot be completely eliminated.

5. Housekeeping

The purpose of the Housekeeping Policy is to provide a workplace free of recognized hazards.

6. Walking-Working Surfaces and Fall Protections

The purpose of the Walking-Working Surfaces and Fall Protection Policy is to ensure a safe and healthful working environment and to act as a performance standard for all Lander University employees.

These policies are new policies, and were presented to the board by the committee as a package.

The motion to adopt these six policies was approved by unanimous vote.

7. University-initiated Student Medical Leave

This policy and its related procedures are designed to help transition a student to a safe environment more conducive to their needs when it becomes clear that remaining at Lander University is not in the best interest of the student or the university community.

8. CARE Team Intervention and Authority

The mission of the CARE Team is to promote a safe, caring, and productive environment for all members of the university community. The CARE Team addresses critical psychological, emotional, physical, behavioral, or other well-being concerns through review of reported incidents, and provides recommendations to ensure the safety of the university community.

These policies are existing policies, and were presented to the board as a package by the committee as part of the board's four-year review process.

The motion to adopt these two policies was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cosentino shared a report with the Board of Trustees. Some items of interest from the President's report included the following:

Alternative Meeting Location: The president noted the change of meeting location to the Alumni Center of the University of South Carolina. The change in location better accommodates members of the Board of Trustees, who live across the state.

Campus Construction Update: Vice President for Finance and Administration Joe Greenthal gave a brief update on the various completed, ongoing, and upcoming campus construction projects at Lander University. Among them are the new Nursing Experiential Learning Center, the new Library and Information Commons, and the upcoming renovation of the existing Jackson Library into additional academic space.

Marketing and Branding Update: The president asked Brian Apfel, Vice President for Marketing and Communications to give an update on how Lander University is creating better brand and style consistency through a robust and updated branding and style guide.

Workforce Development: President Cosentino continues to serve the state on the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, representing four-year universities. The president stressed the importance of preparing Lander graduates to fill the needs of South Carolina's workforce, and discussed the council's projects that will help students find the right educational and career paths.

Community Lecture Series: The president highlighted the impressive work that the faculty are doing inside and outside the classroom at Lander. Among those faculty are Dr. Rachel Schiera, who presented on decision education as part of Lander's ongoing Community Lecture Series. Dr. Schiera was invited to give her presentation to the Board of Trustees during lunch.

V. OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Faculty Senate

Dr. Kerry Hansknecht shared updates with board members that can be found in the Faculty Senate report.

B. Staff Senate

Taylor Haigler shared updates with board members that can be found in the Staff Senate report.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Linda Dolny to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Robert Barber.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.