

LONGWOOD

U N I V E R S I T Y



LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Friday, March 24, 2006

Minutes

Call to order

The Board of Visitors' Academic and Student Affairs Committee held a meeting on Friday, March 24, 2006 at Longwood University. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Helen Warriner-Burke at 2:10 p.m.

Members present:

Dr. Helen P. Warriner-Burke, Chair
The Honorable John W. Daniel, II
Mr. Thomas I. DeWitt
Mrs. Anne Gregory Vandemark
Dr. Jackie Hall (Substituting for Rhonda Brock-Servais, Faculty Representative)
Ms. Stefanie Mancuso (Student Representative)

Member absent:

Mr. Ricky L. Otey

Present at the request of the Committee:

Dr. Patricia P. Cormier
Ms. Jeanne S. Hayden
Dr. Wayne E. McWee
Dr. Tim J. Pierson
Mr. Robert J. Chonko

Others present:

Mr. John B. Adams, Jr.
The Honorable William W. Bennett, Jr.
Mr. Barry J. Case
Mrs. Susan E. Soza

Business

Item 1 - Approval of Revisions to Student Handbook

Dr. Pierson, Vice President for Student Affairs, presented revisions to the Student Handbook for approval. He stated that the policies and procedures must be reviewed and updated regularly in order to maintain consistency and to ensure that policies are meeting the needs of the students. (A copy of the recommendation is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 1, March 24, 2006.) A motion was made by Mr. Daniel to approve the policy changes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vandemark and approved by the Committee.

Item 2 - Approval of Inclusion of Sexual Orientation and Language Changes in the University’s Affirmative Action Statement

Dr. Pierson presented for the Committee’s approval a recommendation for the inclusion of the sexual orientation and language changes in the University’s Affirmative Action Statement. Dr. Hall expressed the faculty’s support of the inclusion of the language in the Affirmative Action Statement. Mrs. Coulter reported that she had contacted the Department of Human Resource Management in response to Governor Kaine’s Executive Order mandating that all state agencies include a sexual orientation statement in their Equal Employment Opportunity Statements and that other colleges and universities are changing their statements. Ms. Mancuso stated that the student senate and 78% of the student body who voted on the recommended changes voted in favor of the inclusion of the language changes. (A copy of the recommended changes is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 2, March 24, 2006.)

Closed Session

Mr. Adams moved to go into Closed Session under Section 2.2-3711-A 7 of the Code of Virginia to consult with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daniel and approved by the Committee.

In compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the Board returned to Open Session. Mr. Adams moved to certify that the discussion in Closed Session was in accordance with the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Dr. Warriner-Burke and affirmed by Mr. Bennett, Mr. Case, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeWitt, Mrs. Gregory Vandemark, and Mrs. Soza. (A copy of this compliance is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 3, March 24, 2006.)

Mr. Adams reported that during Closed Session the Board agreed with the spirit of the policy and emphatically support the policy but have to consider very carefully the language to make sure that it is not counter to Virginia law or the Constitution. He stated that the Board will continue to consider the policy changes and will readdress the issue at its March 25, 2006 meeting or at its meeting in June. Dr. Warriner-Burke expressed support of the remarks given by Mr. Adams.

Item 3 – Enrollment Summary for 2006

Mrs. Bollinger, Associate Director of Assessment and Institutional Research, reviewed with the Committee the Enrollment Summary for 2006. (A copy of the summary is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 4, March 24, 2006.) Overall enrollment is where the University expects it to be for 2006.

Item 4 – Admissions Update for Fall 2006

Mr. Chonko, Dean of Enrollment Management, reported that as of March 17, 2006, Admissions had received 4,230 applications for Fall 2006 compared with 3,578 for the same date last year. This is an 18.4% increase. To date the Admissions office has received an additional 599 freshman applications. Ms. Teoh, Transfer Counselor, reported that transfer applications are up by 15% and the quality of the pool of applicants is high.

Item 5 – Discussion of Admissions Criteria

Mr. Chonko reviewed in detail the criteria used in the recruitment of students at Longwood University. (A copy of the criteria is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Minutes of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 5, March 24, 2006.) He stated that these criteria are used in evaluating students applying for enrollment at Longwood. These applications are evaluated using other factors in addition to the Admissions criteria. Some of these other factors include: letters of recommendation; involvement in community service; motivation; and tenacity. Mr. Chonko stated that we use many factor when reviewing borderline applicants.

Item 6 – Student Retention Report

Mr. Chonko reported that the University set as one of its primary goals to increase its student retention and graduation rates. The University brought in two consulting firms to assess and provide recommendations for improvement. Based on the data collected by the consultants, many of the existing activities and programs addressing student success and retention were reviewed, modified and/or enhanced. Some of these activities include:

- New student orientation and registration
- First-year Longwood Seminar
- Academic Support/Learning Center
- Early Alert System

(A copy of this report is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 6, March 24, 2006.)

Item 7- Update on Spring Housing

Dr. Pierson presented an update on housing for spring 2006 and referred the Committee to the report in their materials. (A copy of the report is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 7, March 24, 2006.) He reported that currently the housing rate is at 96%. The Office of Residential and Commuter Life is moving into housing selections for 2006-2007. He also reported that Longwood Landings is almost at 90% occupancy for fall 2006.

Item 8 – Report on Sabbaticals

Dr. McWee, Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented a brief overview of the report on sabbaticals and referred the Committee to the report in their materials. (A copy of the report is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 8, March 24, 2006.)

Item 9 – Report on Faculty Connections

Dr. McWee referred the Committee to the report in their materials for information on the Faculty Connections Program. (A copy of the report is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 9, March 24, 2006.)

Following Dr. McWee’s report Mr. Adams announced that after conferring with the President and Ms. Landry from the Office of the Attorney General, the Board would not be able to reach a decision on the approval of the “sexual orientation” language at this meeting and will delay that decision until the June meeting. He reaffirmed the view of the Board that inclusion and nondiscrimination are seminal values of the University and the Board will continue to seek ways to make those values more visible and clear. He stated that he is proud of the position the students and faculty have taken and will continue to find a prudent way to deal with the issue.

Closed Session

Mr. Adams moved to go into Closed Session under Section 2.2-3711-A 1, 3 and 10 of the Code of Virginia to discuss matters related to personnel issues, awarding of honorary degrees and the acquisition of property. The motion was seconded by Mr. Case and approved by the Committee.

In compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the Board returned to Open Session. Mr. Case moved to certify that the discussion in Closed Session was in accordance with the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams and affirmed by Mr. Bennett, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeWitt, Mrs. Gregory Vandemark, Mrs. Soza and Dr. Warriner-Burke. (A copy of this compliance is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 10, March 24, 2006.)

Adjournment

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Jeanne S. Hayden
Secretary to the Board of Visitors