

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
Saturday, May 14, 2011

Minutes

Call to order

The Longwood University Board of Visitors met on Saturday, May 14, 2011 on the Longwood University campus. The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. by Mr. John B. Adams, Rector of the Board.

Members Present:

Mr. John B. Adams, Jr.
Ms. M. Jane Brooke
The Honorable Otis L. Brown
Dr. Edward I. Gordon
Mr. Chin Han Kim
Dr. Ripon W. La Roche, II
Dr. Judi M. Lynch
Mr. Stephen L. Mobley
Mrs. Susan E. Soza
Mr. Ronald O. White

Board members absent were:

Ms. Marjorie M. Connelly
The Honorable John W. Daniel, II
Mrs. Rita B. Hughes

Present at the request of the Board:

President Patrick Finnegan
Ms. Brenda Atkins, Executive Assistant to the President for Governmental Affairs and
Special Projects
Mr. Brandon Fry, Student Representative to the Board

Present at the request of the President:

Mr. Kenneth P. Copeland, Jr., Executive Director of the Real Estate Foundation
Dr. Kenneth Perkins, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Kathy Worster, Vice President for Administration and Finance

Rector's Comments

Mr. Adams welcomed the Board members. Mr. Adams stated how indebted the Board was to Mr. Otis Brown and how grateful they all are for everything he has done for the University during his eight years on the Board and that his contributions are unparalleled.

Business

Consent Agenda

Item 1 – Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Adams presented to the Board for its approval the minutes for the March 25-26, 2011 Board meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Gordon to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brooke and unanimously approved by the Board. (A copy of this request is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 1, May 14, 2011.)

Administration, Finance, Facilities and Technology

Item 2- Approval of Tuition and Fees for 2011-2012

Ms. Worster, Vice President for Administration and Finance, presented the Board with tuition, fees, room and board scenarios for 2011-12 ranging from a total in-state residential percentage increase of 3.59% (9% tuition increase) to 4.59% (12% tuition increase) and an overall increase ranging from 5.79% (9% tuition increase) to 7.35% (12% tuition increase) for out-of-state residential students. Ms. Worster stated that a portion of the Federal Stimulus funding is being carried over to help off-set the tuition increase. She also stated that a portion of the uncommitted funds would be used to hire three faculty members to meet SACS Accreditation criteria, open a Grants Office and support the International Studies Office in recruiting more international students. Ms. Worster stated that the University’s 2011-12 budget was very conservative and was based on 2010 enrollment. Ms. Worster also reviewed with the Board a listing of other total costs for the Virginia public institutions that have already set tuition and fees for 2011-2012.

Mr. Adams reported that he had participated in a telephone conference call with the Governor, college presidents, and other rectors where the Governor indicated that he would prefer that institutions keep tuition costs under double digits. Mr. Adams called on Brandon Fry, student representative to the Board, to give the Board the students’ perspective. Mr. Fry said that tuition and fee increases had been a huge topic since March and that the students had held a rally against a 10% increase. Mr. Fry did confirm that there was a misunderstanding among many students who thought that the Board’s March discussion of a 10% tuition increase meant that their total cost would go up by 10%, when in fact a 10% increase in tuition would result in a 3.92% increase in total cost to students. He indicated that the students were concerned about affordability and asked the Board to raise fees the lowest they could.

Mr. Adams brought up that the University’s faculty salaries were much lower than its peer group and one of the lowest in the Commonwealth while at the same time our faculty teach four courses each semester where other schools only require faculty to teach three courses each semester. Dr. Perkins stated that faculty salaries are an issue in maintaining and recruiting faculty. Dr. Perkins went on to explain that the University is pursuing having an outside firm come in to review all teaching faculty, administrative and professional faculty, and classified employees’ salaries to determine appropriate pay. Ms. Worster stated that this study could be taken to the General Assembly to seek funds to fill the gap. There was also discussion that, when complete, the Six-Year Institutional Plan and the Academic Strategic Plan would help determine future funding needs for those academic initiatives.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mr. White to approve a 9.5% tuition increase, which is a 3.76 percent total increase in 2011-12 tuition, fees, room and board costs for in-state residential students and 6% for out-of-state residential students. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gordon and approved by the Board. Mr. Adams voted against the proposed increase.

It was noted that the 3.76% overall increase would raise the total cost for an in-state, undergraduate residential student by \$675 to \$18,644. (A copy of this request is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 2, May 14, 2011.)

Action Item 3 – Approval of Request for Funds from Housing Reserve

Also presented for the Board’s approval was a request to approve the allocation of up to \$310,000 from the University’s Housing Reserves for an electric heater project in South Cunningham. Ms. Worster explained that the replacement residential housing being built by the Real Estate Foundation would not be available until Fall 2013 and that the electric heaters are needed to provide comfortable living spaces for the students. The University looked at two options with the first being to replace the pipes and the second option to install the electric heaters. It had been determined that it was uncertain if the pipes could be replaced by the Fall of 2011; therefore, the electric heater project was the optimal option. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to allocate up to \$310,000 from the University’s Housing Reserve Fund for the South Cunningham Electric Heater Project. The motion was seconded by Dr. La Roche and unanimously approved by the Board. (A copy of this request is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 3, May 14, 2011.)

New Business

Information Item 4 – Review of June 2011 Board of Visitors’ Meeting Schedule and Agenda

President Finnegan reviewed the agenda and schedule for the June 2011 Board of Visitors’ meeting. It was decided that the Board would try to complete the June Board meeting in one day, if possible; however, with an anticipated lengthy discussion of the Six Year Plan, it may be necessary for the meeting to go into Saturday. (A copy of the draft schedule is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 4, May 14, 2011.)

Information Item 5 – Review Draft of Six-Year Plan

Dr. Ken Perkins, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, discussed the University’s draft academic six-year plan. He explained that the financial section of the plan was being developed by the Vice President for Administration and Finance and should be available by the June meeting. Dr. Perkins stated that the plan included several new STEM (science, technology, math and science) programs. It was discussed that the Secretary of Education had determined that the plans did not have to be approved by the Board before submission July 1, but rather wait until after the feedback from the meetings and discussions with the Higher Education Advisory Committee in Richmond and the University’s response to that feedback before seeking Board approval. The final Board approved document is due in Richmond on October 1. The Six-Year Plan will be on the June agenda for review and Rector Adams asked the Board members to ask questions at the June meeting and in the meantime they should individually submit questions or suggestions that they might have. (A copy of this request is filed with “Addenda to Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Visitors” as Appendix 5, May 14, 2011.)

Information Item 6 – Review of Proposals/Models for Replacement Housing

Mr. Ken Copeland, Director of the Real Estate Foundation, discussed with the Board three proposals for replacement housing for the Cunninghams. Mr. Copeland discussed that all three proposals used Lancer Park as the location for all or part of the housing. Mr. Copeland explained that the Real Estate Foundation had put out a “project scope” and they had received six proposals, with three selected for consideration. Each proposal also included expanded clubhouse facilities for all residents of Lancer Park. Mr. Copeland said that the committee, which is composed of himself, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bratcher, Dr. Pierson, Ms. Worster, Dr. Claire La Roche, Mr. Tom Bailey and Mr. Barry Case would review the projects and cost proposals and bring a recommendation to the June Board meeting.

Other Business

President Finnegan announced that the University had received the funds to renovate French Hall into the IT Center, as well as the money for the equipment and furnishings for the new Bedford addition. He informed the Board that French Hall would be used this fall for housing students and that the renovation would begin in December after the end of the fall semester.

President Finnegan announced that Dr. Bryan Rowland had been hired as the Vice President for University Advancement.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Susan Soza moved that the Board adjourn. This motion was seconded by Ms. Brooke and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

M. Jane Brooke
Board Secretary