

**LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF VISITORS**

**Friday, June 5, 2026**

**Minutes**

**\*\*\*\*\* DRAFT \*\*\*\*\***

**Call to Order**

The Longwood University Board of Visitors met on Friday, June 5 at Patrick Henry's Red Hill for an annual meeting and retreat. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Rector Ron White.

Board members present were:

Rector Ron White  
Vice Rector Jeff Nottingham  
Secretary David Rose  
Member at Large Kathleen Early  
Ian Bradley (virtual)  
Charles Fagan  
Jackie McCaleb  
Kathryn Roberts  
Brian Schmalzbach

Also present:

President W. Taylor Reveley IV  
Tim Hall, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics  
Courtney Hodges, Vice President for Institutional Advancement  
Lara Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Matt McGregor, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Jennifer Green, Vice President for Strategic Operations  
Cameron Patterson, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Matthew McWilliams, University Spokesperson and Deputy to the President  
Cameron O'Brion, University Counsel

**Rector's and President's Welcome**

Rector White called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed the Board and Vice Presidents, marking his last meeting as Rector. He expressed gratitude for being a part of Longwood University, and said that everyone in the room represents good in the world, and expressed his appreciation for being a part of the body.

President Reveley expressed his gratitude to White for his service and shared that he had just heard that White has been reappointed to the Board of Visitors, to applause. He also briefly discussed the state of Virginia politics that is affecting budget negotiations, saying that Longwood is as well prepared to deal with upheaval as anyone, which is from a source of strength and momentum. He said it was great to be at Red Hill and to be greeted by Patrick Henry's 5<sup>th</sup>-great grandson over lunch.

### **Consent Agenda and Approval of the Minutes**

The Rector reiterated the importance of Longwood and the University's mission in a time of political unease. He asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the evaluation and commendation of the president and approval of the minutes. Nottingham moved, Rose seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President Reveley said that the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation has been a great friend to Longwood since 1982 with gifts of almost \$10 million in value, and that it has committed to increasing its annual giving by \$100,000 per year, which will be used to double scholarship funding for music students. He said it was fitting to honor this commitment to Longwood's music program by naming the new music building Lettie Pate Whitehead Hall, and that it is also fitting to name the atrium after Charlie and Lisa Kinzer, both longtime music professors at Longwood. The Rector asked for a motion. Chuck Fagan moved, Kathryn Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President Reveley presented a resolution drafted with Brian Schmalzbach, in consultation with leading Virginia jurists and legal scholars on the role and civic purpose of public higher education. Schmalzbach gave a brief history of the work that went into the resolution, saying that he hopes it will be a document that guides Longwood far into the future and serves as a beacon to others.

President Reveley read the text of the resolution:

### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS**

#### **ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE AND CIVIC PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

*Adopted at Patrick Henry's Red Hill on this 5th Day of June 2026*  
**-AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR-**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States sets forth a compact not only of laws, but of enduring ideals --- among them liberty, justice, and the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, the American public university exists not merely as a mechanism for the transmission of skills, but stands also as a guardian of civic aspiration and possibility --- charged with preparing each rising generation not only for work, but for citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Founders of the Republic, and the architects of our democratic institutions, recognized education as the foundation upon which the people might govern wisely and justly; and

WHEREAS, across history in the long arc of efforts to secure free society and the rule of law, the Commonwealth of Virginia has stood as both a birthplace and a battleground --- from the founding vision of an educated republic to the civil rights struggles that reshaped our state, our schools, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the very lifeblood of our democratic Republic is free inquiry, unfettered thought, and the fearless exchange of ideas --- all of which find fundamental sanctuary and test in the halls of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, freedom of speech is an unalienable right, and nowhere is its practice more vital than on the campuses of public institutions of learning; and

WHEREAS, academic freedom --- the liberty of faculty to teach, research, and publish without fear of retribution --- is not a luxury of tenure, but a safeguard of truth in a free republic;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Longwood University, as a public institution created by the people and for the people, affirms its solemn duty under the Constitution to serve as a steward of liberty, a forum for free discourse, and a wellspring of citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this University shall defend, with the utmost integrity, the right of students and faculty alike to speak, to dissent, to question, and to explore --- knowing that from this crucible of contest and conversation, leavened with the decorum of citizenship and shared inheritance, springs the vibrant civic life of the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University reaffirms the public mission of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and in the United States of America --- to cultivate minds that are both keen and kind, and to prepare citizens who understand that freedom is not the absence of duty, but a call to service;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Longwood University, under ideals of academic freedom, shall remain faithful to its highest purpose: to be a bulwark of reason, a defender of liberty, and a teacher of the habits of a free and self-governing people --- an open haven where truth may emerge, not by decree, but by the honest inquiry of free minds.

*Let this resolution be entered into the record, and let its spirit guide our deliberations, our policies, and our enduring commitment to the American experiment in liberty under law. Prepared with the counsel of leading jurists of the Commonwealth and scholars of the Constitution, and great friends of the University.*

Schmalzbach moved to adopt the resolution. Nottingham seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The board expressed its thanks to Schmalzbach for his work on the resolution, noting it was fitting to pass this in America's 250<sup>th</sup> year at the home of Patrick Henry, such a key inspiration to the Revolution.

The meeting moved to Board elections. Chuck Fagan moved to elect Jeff Nottingham as Rector, David Rose as Vice Rector, and Kathleen Early as Secretary, leaving the Member-at-Large election for the next Board meeting in September when new members are seated. Schmalzbach

seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. President Reveley and Board members congratulated the new officers.

## **Vice Presidential Reports**

President Reveley turned to reports from the Vice Presidents, and opened by expressing gratitude for the work of Dean of Student Engagement Cheryl Steele, who is retiring.

Cam Patterson echoed President Reveley's thoughts on Steele, saying colleagues have begun a scholarship in Steele's name. He announced that Sarah Lockwood is replacing Steele as the Dean of Student Engagement. Lockwood is currently at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, and brings strategic thinking and experience in student engagement. She is a creative, thoughtful person who will bring energy to campus. He said that while the pace of the summer is slower and welcome, there is a lot of work to do bringing Cox Hall back online, and some updating of spaces in Upchurch University Center.

Courtney Hodges thanked the board for their passion supporting the work of the university. She said this has been an extraordinary year for philanthropy, but while the record number of \$29 million-plus is notable, the headline should be the impact that these gifts will have on Longwood students and a donor base of more than 2,700 donors. She highlighted the Greenwood Gift, Bird-Jones gift, Bowman-Ashby leadership program, and eight new endowed professorships. The board applauded the work of the Advancement team.

Jennifer Green talked about some of the headwinds that are facing higher education, including the demographic cliff that universities are facing nationwide, increasing pressures across higher education. She said we have long had a strategy to compete on a higher level, and students are choosing Longwood over larger and more well-known schools. She complimented the earlier resolution for its work on defining public higher education's purpose, especially as an increasing number of people are questioning the value of a four-year degree. She said that total enrollment is stable with core undergraduate and graduate programs seeing good enrollment. She said that Admissions is doing notably well with those who love us, and shared plans to reinforce that story in different ways to additional groups of students, with a steady leadership team, and a steady strategy that allows us to respond wisely and judiciously to increasing competitive pressures.

Schmalzbach asked about the gender ratio among graduating high school seniors and Longwood's strategy to address those changes. Green said we continue to be female dominant but are always looking at other degree programs that tend to attract more men, though women are the majority of students going to college. She speculated that Workforce Pell scholarship dollars might attract more male students into going straight into the workforce. Schmalzbach asked about post-May 1 activity and what do the recruiting battles look like there. Green said that there is more activity, and that admissions counselors don't complete their work with prospective students only on the deposit deadline, continuing to be responsive to needs, and that Longwood has the highest number of students who have already completed their "Summer Checklist" of any admissions cycle in the last 15 years. Rose asked how Strategic Operations and Admin & Finance work together to make budget projections. Green said they work closely

together. McGregor added that the traditional retention and melt rates are in budget projections, and they model different views, mostly very conservative about revenue projections. President Reveley said that in a typical summer the traditional melt is about 50 students. Reveley said that last year we had a particularly large class and this year we will have a more typical number of freshmen. Rose complimented Green and her team on their work. Green highlighted the work of Dean of Admissions Jason Ferguson, who makes personal connections with all of the students.

Larissa Smith thanked the Board for their Resolution. She said Civitae is meant to be a living curriculum, and the resolution can be a way that we can help to refresh that curriculum. She also thanked them for the consent agenda resolution to award Roger Byrne dean emeritus, and updated them on the hiring of Wade Edwards, associate dean of Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences, as dean to succeed Byrne. She said there is no greater campus partner than Edwards, and that his experience on the Civitae Committee, Retention Task Force, and Post-Graduate Success Initiative will allow him to hit the ground running and help carry our mission forward.

Tim Hall said there has been a tremendous amount of success in athletics this spring. Not only did the baseball team have a season for the ages, with Head Coach Ray Noe leading the team to 20 more wins than last year, making the Big South Championship game, but men's and women's tennis had successful seasons. He shared that a men's tennis player was named Big South Player of the Year. Our student athletes continue to be great students too: the department-wide student athlete-average GPA is 3.5.

Matt McGregor said that one of the highlights of his year is walking at commencement to the stage with all the excitement, and another is the lunch after commencement, where folks from all across campus gather together to mark the day. He said those moments underscore how we approach tuition and fees, because a college education is a dream for a lot of people, and that we balance tuition with the student experience that students need to thrive. He said that this year, our budget is based on a tuition increase of 3.68%, and when you combine it with comp fees, it comes in under a 4% increase for next year, noting that we work hard to stay inside inflation. Schmalzbach asked for clarification on the out-of-state tuition increase, as it is lower than the in-state increase. McGregor said that if we use the same percentage, the out-of-state would be too high to be competitive but the dollar increase is equivalent. Roberts asked what the percentage of in-state students we have at Longwood, and McGregor said that it's over 90% for undergraduates.

McGregor moved on to the operating plan budget, saying that while budget negotiations were still ongoing, we don't anticipate a lot of changes to our operating assumptions, but are ready to readjust if needed. President Reveley said that the general fund contribution from the state in the operating plan is conservative. McGregor said the biggest driver of increasing budgets is salary and benefits costs, including a 13 percent increase in the university share of benefits costs. He said they are also building in dollars for general inflationary costs.

McGregor then discussed the capital budget plan, which lays out anticipated capital improvements. He touched on the four different areas: simple routine maintenance, financed out of operating budgets; capital improvements like Dorrill Dining Hall and the baseball field turf project; maintenance reserve program funds allocated to address deferred maintenance and

infrastructure needs funded through the general fund; and capital outlay, which has to be approved by the legislature, like the new music building and five HVAC projects currently ongoing.

White asked for a motion to approve, for FY27, tuition and fees, the operating budget and plan, and the capital budget and plan, all as presented. He applauded the work done to keep tuition below the inflation rate. Rose motioned, Schmalzbach seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Fagan expressed appreciation for Rector White's leadership, to a round of applause from the Board.

Rector White adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.