

# **LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY**

## **BOARD OF VISITORS**

**September 10, 2021**

### **Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

The Longwood University Board of Visitors met on Friday, September 10 in Radcliff Hall. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Rector Pia Trigiani.

#### Members present:

Pia Trigiani  
Michael Evans  
Larry Palmer  
Polly Raible  
Cookie Scott  
Nadine Marsh-Carter  
Eileen Anderson  
Fabiola Carter  
Shawn Smith

#### Also present:

President W. Taylor Reveley IV  
Justin Pope, Vice President and Chief of Staff  
Cameron O’Brion, University Counsel  
Larissa Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Tim Pierson, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Louise Waller, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Victoria Kindon, Vice President for Strategic Operations  
Cameron Patterson, Executive Director of the Moton Museum  
Anne Patterson, SGA President  
Lee Bidwell, Faculty Representative  
Robert Wertz, Longwood University Foundation  
John Daniel, Longwood Real Estate Foundation

#### **Rector’s Welcome and Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda**

The Rector began the meeting by asking for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. She introduced and thanked Anne Patterson, the new SGA president; John Daniel, president of the Real Estate Foundation, and former rector Bob Wertz, of the University Foundation. Noting the honorary resolution prepared, she acknowledged and thanked David Hallock for his service following his departure from the Board in light of other commitments, having served Longwood almost a full eight years.

The Rector asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Evans so moved, Ms. Anderson seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The Rector asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Anderson so moved, Ms. Scott seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Rector asked for a motion to approve all items under the Consent Agenda, except for the Longwood University Foundation operating agreement, pending discussion during the meeting. Ms. Carter-Marsh so moved, Ms. Anderson seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **President's Report and Discussion**

President Reveley welcomed the Board, noted the joy of being together fully in person and of Convocation the day before. He noted the anniversary of 9/11 and its impact on Longwood, including the death of Joe Anchundia '97 in the attacks on the World Trade Center. He gave an overview for the schedule and agenda for the meeting. The President spoke broadly about the continuing challenge of Covid-19 and the strength Longwood derives as a public institution in the Commonwealth. Another strength is the state of campus facilities, with special thanks to Louise Waller, John Daniel, and Commonwealth support. Also, Longwood has experienced meaningful endowment growth. He noted the importance of building a strong endowment and disciplined focus on the long-term to ensure Longwood is strong not just in the present but in perpetuity. Lastly, he said Longwood's greatest strength remains its people. Against all these strengths, challenges remain, starting with the continued unpredictability of Covid. He said the University has confidence from successfully navigating the 2020-21 academic year. While campus life is moving forward, nothing yet feels fully normal, nor is there any sense the crisis is fully past. Demography of the college-going population remains a national challenge, and Longwood must and will continue to work aggressively and creatively to attract students. He noted campus visits are just one piece among many in the work of forming a class, but the impact of Covid on campus visits has been clear: in there were 485 visits in the summer of 2019, 277 in 2020 when Covid was omnipresent, and 712 in the summer of 2021. Overall, President Reveley said he is "as optimistic as I have ever been" about Longwood's long-term prospects. The Rector added that the leadership team has been nimble and adjusted to challenging circumstances. She also recognized Dr. Bidwell and thanked her for her thorough report on the faculty, and asked her to thank the faculty for their hard work and academic excellence.

Dr. Smith gave an overview of the accreditation re-affirmation process, and Longwood's team and timeline for gathering and submitting appropriate material related to the 73 standards. She described the purpose and process regarding the development of the next QEP. She said she would continue to update the Board about the process over its course and thanked the Board for their continued engagement. She answered several questions about the process, including possible areas of particular interest and attention by SACSCOC and other matters.

Ms. Meadows presented a detailed overview of the national legal landscape in college athletics related to "Name, Image and Likeness" which has shaped Longwood's new policy, including the recent U.S. Supreme Court case and developments in Virginia and other state legislatures. She

said Longwood worked closely with other Commonwealth institutions to develop its new policy. She said Longwood supports the right of student athletes to benefit from NIL activities but with appropriate boundaries, and the University will not help facilitate such arrangements. Currently only a small number of student-athletes at Longwood have explored NIL activities. Our major focus remains educating student-athletes about Longwood's policies and preparing them to healthily navigate the new landscape. Ms. Patterson noted that one of the things that makes Longwood special is that student-athletes have a shared experience with the full student body, academically and socially.

Ms. Raible asked for an update on the first few weeks of the academic year. Dr. Pierson said there was a deep sense of excitement to be back among colleagues and friends, especially for first-year students. The atmosphere around the G.A.M.E and the Student Involvement Fair were very popular. He said the prior academic year had presented substantial challenges to many staff. The anonymous reporting portal has been taken down, and the current system is both effective and more in line with Longwood's spirit. Ms. Kindon noted some Longwood incoming students had not been in a classroom for a substantial period of time and gave an overview of efforts to help students with the unique challenges of the transition to college this year.

Mr. Pope gave an update regarding the continuing campus response to Covid, noting that Longwood's experience and staffing have been invaluable, and that a meaningful number of positive cases so far this semester have been in vaccinated students. He said this is a preview of what may be a "new normal" in well-vaccinated communities during a period of heightened transmission, but the main takeaway is that symptoms in those vaccinated continue to be mild at worst, so the trend reinforces that vaccines are highly effective. He said the University remains vigilant and willing to consider changes to practice or policy in response to conditions, but determined to focus on steps that would have an impact. There continues to be no evidence of transmission in classrooms. Dr. Pierson thanked students for their leadership, and said it had been key to success. Dr. Bidwell echoed that Longwood students have been a positive influence and example in the community.

Ms. Waller gave an update on the full list of capital construction projects and their timeline.

Ms. Patterson thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here, and thanked the University for making Convocation special. She said Covid-19 has posed extraordinary challenges for students, given the centrality of the in-person experience to Longwood. She commended Lancer Productions in particular for stepping up to engage students despite the challenges of the pandemic, as well as other organizations that in their own ways figured out how to adapt. She said connections between students and their academic major are important, and said it will be very important to bring back that sense of academic togetherness this year. She said SGA is working to develop "major nights" in this regard. Students have also been focused on issues of diversity and inclusion. She said the opening of Clark House has been successful and welcomed. She said students are valuing the Civitae Curriculum, and the different perspective it provides compared to other institutions. The Rector thanked her for her report and said she and other Board members would be pleased to attend an upcoming SGA meeting.

Dr. Bidwell described faculty as “excited, grateful and concerned.” She said faculty are excited to be back in the classroom with students. She shared the results of a conversation in her CTZN 110 class recently about the effects of the pandemic on learning, focusing on some positive aspects, including increased grit, problem-solving and resilience. She said there clearly are some deficits, particularly in math and science, but it’s also important to showcase strengths. Students report being more active problem-solvers, and to better appreciate in-person learning. She said faculty are grateful that salaries were restored and raised. She said faculty remain concerned about enrollment and the overall financial strength of the University, and vulnerability if there were to be cuts to the state budget. The Rector said she appreciated the comments, and said it a source of encouragement that the Commonwealth’s financial picture is quite strong. She said the Board is focused on the work necessary to maintain the long-term strength of the University. Ms. Scott thanked her for sharing comments from the students’ perspectives.

Mr. Wertz discussed the proposed new operating agreement between the Foundation and the University, and its purpose to reinvigorate the relationship between the Foundation Board and the University Board of Visitors. The Rector asked for a motion to adopt the updated memorandum of understanding. Ms. Marsh-Carter so moved, Mr. Evans seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wertz thanked Burt Hazlewood for stepping up to serve as interim executive director of the Foundation, leading an organization stewarding approximately \$100 million. He said the Foundation is awarding about \$2.3 million in scholarships this year. During the past year, the main investment corpus of the Foundation returned an extraordinary 43.8 percent, compared to 27.5 for the Virginia Retirement System investment pool. Mr. Hazlewood said total assets are now \$109 million, and endowment is \$97 million. This year’s performance raised our 10-year average annualized growth rate to 9.2 percent, compared to 8 percent annually as a benchmark for most universities. Thanks to outstanding work of the Institutional Advancement office, scholarship money has increased 30 percent over the last two years, and 10 percent since last year. Mr. Wertz said advertising will begin soon for the executive director position.

Mr. Daniel provided an update on Hull Springs Farm, and plans to name the elegant new facilities there for former Gov. Gerald Baliles, honoring his powerful environmental legacy for the Commonwealth and the Chesapeake Bay. He gave an overview of the substantial improvements to the property in support of its mission for students and environmental stewardship. He said the family of Gov. Baliles has been extremely supportive of the idea to name the center in his honor. On behalf of the Real Estate Foundation, he asked the Board to rename the facility the “Gerald L. Baliles Center for Environmental Education at Hull Springs Farm.” He said the project has been deeply personal for him, as he knows it has been for President Reveley and Rector Trigiani, and “so many points on the compass converge here” to make this the right thing to do. President Reveley said Gov. Baliles was a great mentor and friend, who was instrumental in Virginia’s continuing financial strength, and had a great commitment to diversity and education. He also had a deep connection to Southside, Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay, so naming the facility in his honor is profoundly meaningful. The Rector read a naming resolution regarding this proposal and asked for a motion to approve. Mr.

Evans so moved, Ms. Carter-Marsh seconded and the motion was approved unanimously to applause. The Rector thanked all involved for their work and commitment. Dr. Smith said on behalf of the faculty that the new research lab is an exciting opportunity to expand teaching and research opportunities, and also thanked all involved for their support.

The Rector shared with Board members and representatives a commemorative token in honor of Joan of Arc. She also noted with congratulations the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ms. Scott's historic graduation from Longwood. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.