

**LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING**  
**Friday, June 12, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Longwood University Board of Visitors met via conference call Friday, June 12. The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by Rector Eric Hansen.

Members Present:

Mr. Eric Hansen  
Mrs. Eileen Anderson (via conference call)  
Ms. Katharine Bond (via conference call)  
Mr. Michael Evans (via conference call)  
Mr. Steven Gould (via conference call)  
Mr. David Hallock (via conference call)  
Mrs. Colleen Margiloff (via conference call)  
Mrs. Nadine Marsh-Carter (via conference call)  
Mr. Larry Palmer (via conference call)  
Ms. Polly Raible (via conference call)  
Mrs Ricshawn Adkins Roane (via conference call)  
Ms. Cookie Scott (via conference call)  
Ms. Pia Trigiani (via conference call)

Also present:

President W. Taylor Reveley IV  
Justin Pope, Vice President and Chief of Staff  
Cameron O’Brion, University Counsel  
Dr. Larissa Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Louise Waller, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Ms. Victoria Kindon, Vice President for Strategic Operations  
Ms. Courtney Hodges, Vice President for Institutional Advancement  
Dr. Tim Pierson, Vice President for Student Affairs

The Rector welcomed the Board and said it was good to be together, and noted the continuity of the group with the recent board reappointments.

The Rector asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including the minutes, with a notation for the record that there is currently substantial litigation surrounding Title IX nationally that the University will continue to monitor. Ms. Trigiani moved, Ms. Anderson seconded, and the motion was approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Reveley introduced Fran Bradford, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Education, who joined by conference call and gave the board an overview of Covid-19 preparedness efforts and other higher education issues affecting the Commonwealth. President Reveley noted she has been indispensable to Longwood and Virginia. She thanked Longwood's faculty and staff for their work this spring to help students through challenging times. She thanked President Reveley for his leadership and his friendship, and the Rector and Board for their service. She also thanked President Reveley for his tireless work helping develop the Commonwealth's guidance for re-opening higher education, and on behalf of Virginia higher education more broadly.

She gave an overview of the Commonwealth's guidance and the important role it will play in ensuring campuses have public health precautions in place as they re-open campuses.

Regarding state finances, she said the state budget situation this coming year will be extremely challenging, with a deficit of \$800 million to \$1 billion over the course of the coming year, to be addressed by the General Assembly when it reconvenes. The economic pressures on Virginia higher education will be substantial. She noted, however, even in a time of crisis educational and societal equity issues remain critically important. Campuses are the natural and rightful places for challenging discussions and she expects those will happen when students return to campus in the fall. She provided an update regarding possible courses for the reconvened General Assembly session later this year. In response to a question from Mr. Hansen, she described the partnership between the Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Department of Health, complementing VDH on their coordination with higher education despite a plethora of challenges they are facing, and in particular their sensitivity to the academic calendar and timeline needs of higher education. She complemented the testing guidance they have developed and its focus on keeping Virginians as healthy and safe as possible. President Reveley echoed that VDH has been a strong partner and thanked them for their productive work.

### **Annual Elections**

President Reveley noted how valuable it is that, for the first time during his tenure as president, the Board membership will continue on in its entirety. He asked Mr. Hallock, chair of the nominating committee, to report to the Board and offer nominations for rector, vice rector, secretary and members at large of the executive committee. Mr. Hallock moved to renominate the current slate of officers: Mr. Hansen as rector, Ms. Trigiani as vice rector, Mr. Evans as secretary and Ms. Anderson as member at large. President Reveley asked for any nominations from the floor. There being none, he asked for a motion that the slate be approved. Mr. Palmer so moved, Ms. Scott seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. President Reveley congratulated the newly re-elected slate.

### **University Update**

President Reveley expressed his thanks for the Board for their support during the current crisis, to the faculty and staff, noting faculty in particular worked heroically to shift gears and help keep

students engaged and flourishing. He also thanked the vice presidents for their extraordinary hard work on behalf of Longwood in the face of unprecedented challenges.

He reiterated the challenges the country is facing are unprecedented and grave, including Covid-19, unemployment (with approximately 44 million Americans having lost jobs), and a wave of social challenge and unrest. He said he hopes the lasting impact of 2020 will prove to be an overdue national reckoning on racial matters, which will produce lasting change, and that Longwood is committed to its part in such work. He noted the diversity of the Board of Visitors itself is profoundly important.

President Reveley summarized and provided context on the full range of challenges this spring: responding to Covid-19 cases; abruptly shifting coursework online; moving students out while continuing to house students who needed to be on campus; adjusting graduation; navigating urgent financial jolts caused by unexpected and substantial expenses and revenue losses; planning salary actions to offer urgent budget protection; navigating an admissions cycle without being able to bring students to campus; and now planning for a fall semester that reflects the voluminous and often confusing guidance of a range of authorities. He said each of these challenges has been exceptionally complicated, and he is proud of Longwood's response. He noted he had told the vice presidents early in the crisis their focus must remain on re-opening Longwood safely, and he believes we will be able to do so.

Mr. Hansen said he spoke for the Board of Visitors complimenting the leadership team on their work to prepare Longwood to navigate substantial and inevitable financial pressures associated with the impact of Covid-19, and on their own sacrifices. He said in his experience such actions help bring a leadership group together, and speak to the character of the institution.

### **Budget and Tuition/Fees**

Ms. Waller gave an overview of the proposal regarding tuition and fees, and the budget. She said before Covid-19, Longwood had been optimistic it could hold tuition flat. However, the prospects for receiving tuition moderation funding from the state are no longer in place, and a modest increase is the responsible course for the coming year.

Regarding the budget, she said this year's budget especially requires extra flexibility, given continued uncertainty regarding enrollment and the extraordinary sharp drop in state funding that is expected. She said she is proud of the reaction to the temporary salary actions which have produced about \$3.3 million in savings. The budget presented is flat in terms of expenditure, and plans conservatively for enrollment. It anticipates about \$31.5 million in revenue that has been approved by the state, but news of budget adjustments is expected later this year. Longwood has reduced the rate for single rooms in housing. She noted the budget includes meaningful additional funding for student financial aid, even though sources of state funding to support student financial aid are uncertain. The budget also includes \$1.3 million to address direct costs associated with Covid-19 preparations. The budget as presented is balanced but acknowledges many uncertainties. The University continues to work hard in areas like energy efficiencies, contracts with vendors and other possible sources of savings. The coming year will be challenging, but she said Longwood is addressing its challenges with open eyes.

In response to a question, she provided details of the Real Estate Foundation's recently closed bond refinancing transaction. She summarized benefits to the university in terms of increased liquidity, risk mitigation and housing efficiencies from having the university manage its housing portfolio under a single entity. She thanked various colleagues and team members for the extraordinary work that was involved.

President Reveley said while we are in a climate of austerity that will require hard choices, Longwood will also still continue to find ways to invest in important new endeavors, whether that means things that have been in motion for a while such as Civitae, or determining how to make vital investments in equity considerations.

Ms. Andersen commended Ms. Waller on the budget planning process and presentation.

Ms. Trigiani moved that the Board approve tuition and fees and the budget as presented. Ms. Marsh-Carter seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Gould abstained.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.