

LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Don Lloyd

Other Members of the Board in Attendance:

Robert Barber
Holly Bracknell
Linda Dolny
Ray Hunt
Marcia Hydrick
Catherine Lee
Peggy Makins
Don Scott
Kathy Taylor
Terry Pruitt
Robert Sabalis
Angela Strickland
Mark Taylor
Anne Walker

Absent: Jim Shubert

Others in Attendance: President Richard Cosentino; Dr. Jim Colbert, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Joe Greenthal, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Adam Taylor, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Brian Reese, Director of Athletics; Amanda Darden, Vice President for Student Experience and Quality Assurance; Brian Apfel, Vice President for University Marketing and Communications; Matt Braaten, Assistant Vice President for Planning Analytics and Decision Support; Sadie Erwin, Executive Assistant to the President; Madison Herig, Governmental Relations Coordinator and Assistant to the Vice President; Dr. Jason Lee, Faculty Senate Chair; Anna Crawford, Staff Senate Representative.

Guests: Mya Atten, of the Index-Journal; Brian Browne, Campaign Consultant from Benz, Whaley, Flessner & Associates, Inc

Chair Lloyd called the meeting to order.

The chair then recognized Adam Taylor, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Adam Taylor stated for the record that appropriate publicity had been disseminated to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, and that the meeting was in compliance with that Act.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2025.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Sabalis made the motion to approve the December 17, 2025 board meeting minutes, seconded by Don Scott.

The board meeting minutes from December 17, 2025 were approved by unanimous vote.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs

Robert Barber was recognized to share updates from the Academic Affairs Committee Report. The committee brought forward five action items:

1. **Applied Artificial Intelligence, B.S.** - (Pending CHE and SACSCOC approval) Lander University proposes the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Artificial Intelligence (AAI) to prepare undergraduate

students to apply artificial intelligence tools effectively and responsibly in professional settings. The program is designed for students who seek to become proficient users and integrators of AI technologies rather than developers of theoretical AI algorithms or researchers in computational science. The proposed program emphasizes practical fluency with contemporary AI platforms, including large language models, cloud-based AI services, data access tools, automation frameworks, and AI-supported decision systems. Students will learn to design prompts, workflows, and AI-enabled solutions that can be applied across organizational and disciplinary contexts such as business, healthcare, education, government, media, and nonprofit organizations.

2. **Content Creation and Digital Marketing, B.S.** - (Pending CHE approval. SACSCOC approval is not required)
Lander University proposes a Bachelor of Science degree in Content Creation and Digital Marketing to address growing demand for graduates with applied digital media production and design skills used in marketing and communication contexts. The program is designed for students seeking careers focused on the creation of digital content and creative assets, rather than traditional marketing management or analytics roles. The proposed program integrates coursework in digital media production, graphic and interactive design, audio and video production, and applied marketing communication. While the curriculum includes foundational marketing courses to provide contextual understanding of branding and audience engagement, the program's primary emphasis is on media creation, visual communication, and portfolio-based skill development. Graduates will be prepared to support marketing, branding, and communication efforts by producing content for websites, social media platforms, advertising campaigns, and organizational communication channels.
3. **Information Systems, M.S.** - (Pending CHE and SACSCOC approval)- Lander University proposes the creation of a Master of Science degree in Information Systems (MSIS) to address the growing demand for professionals who can design, implement, secure, and manage complex information systems within modern organizations. The proposed program is an applied, project-based graduate degree that integrates computing, data, cloud technologies, cybersecurity, and systems analysis within organizational and managerial contexts. The program will be housed in the Department of Applied Computing within the College of Business and Technology. The MS in Information Systems is designed to serve a broad and diverse audience, including recent graduates from non-computing disciplines, working professionals seeking to transition into information systems roles, and individuals currently employed in technical or operational positions who seek formal graduate-level preparation in systems development and deployment. The program does not require a prior undergraduate degree in computer science or information technology, making it accessible to career changers while maintaining appropriate academic rigor through a carefully scaffolded curriculum.

The board voted on action items #1-3 as a group. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Secondary Education Concentrations Only** (Notification of Termination to CHE and to SACSCOC)
 - a. Chemistry, Secondary Education (B.S.)
 - b. English, Secondary Education (B.A.)
 - c. Mathematics, Secondary Education (B.S.)
 - d. History, Secondary Education (B.S.)

The motion passed unanimously.

5. The Faculty Handbook amendments below were submitted to the Board of Trustees for review and a vote of approval:
 - Early Tenure and Promotion
 - Third Year Review – Early Tenure
 - Annual Evaluation Procedures for Faculty with Administrative Appointments

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Finance, Facilities and Audit / Governmental and Strategic Initiatives

Don Lloyd was recognized to share the updates found in the Finance, Facilities, and Audit, and Governmental and Strategic Initiatives Committee reports. The committee brought forward no action items.

C. Enrollment and Access Management / Student Experience and Quality Assurance

Angela Strickland was recognized to share updates from the Enrollment and Access Management/Student Experience and Quality Assurance Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

E. Institutional Advancement

Holly Bracknell was recognized to share updates from the Institutional Advancement Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

F. Student Experience & Quality Assurance/Intercollegiate Athletics

Terry Pruitt was recognized to share updates from the Student Experience & Quality Assurance/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee report. The committee brought forward no action items.

G. Policy

Robert Sabalis was recognized to share updates from the Policy Committee report. The committee brought forward two action items:

1. New Policy on Boiler Safety (LP 4.32)

This policy has been established to ensure a safe and healthy working environment and act as a performance standard for all employees. This policy outlines procedures to ensure the safe operation, inspection, and maintenance of all boilers at Lander University.

2. New Policy on Temporary Worker Safety Management (LP 4.35)

This policy has been established to ensure a safe and healthful working environment and to act as a performance standard for all temporary and contract workers at Lander University.

Both policies were approved with a unanimous vote.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cosentino shared a report with the Board of Trustees. His report included the following updates:

Artificial Intelligence: The president announced that he will continue to focus on in-demand programs, such as artificial intelligence.

Uptown Administrative Building: The president shared an update on the Uptown Administrative Building. The University Marketing & Communications team recently moved their offices into the 2nd floor of the building. Renovations on the other floors and exterior continue.

University Marketing & Branding: The president invited Brian Apfel, Vice President of Marketing & Communications, to share an update on the university's digital marketing campaigns.

Graduation Rates: The president announced that he will begin a major focus on continuing to improve the university's graduation rates. This initiative will be called R2G (Recruit, Retain, Graduate).

College of Education (K-12): The president stated that he continues to focus on growing and improving programs within the College of Education. He also stated that his goal is that all graduates of the College of Education are prepared to pass the PRAXIS exam.

New School of Nursing Building and Information Commons: The president asked Joe Greenthal, Vice President of Finance & Administration, to give an update on the construction of the Nursing Experiential Learning Center. Construction is estimated to be completed in the next few months. The president also thanked those board members who attended the Information Commons groundbreaking ceremony.

Graduate Programs: The president announced that growing in-demand graduate programs will be an upcoming focus of the university.

Attendance: The president stated that the university is looking into automating solutions for tracking classroom attendance.

Cybersecurity: The president asked Joe Greenthal, Vice President of Finance & Administration, to provide an update on how the university handles cybersecurity and the details on plans for continuing improvements in those efforts.

University Advancement/Capital Campaign: The president invited Taylor Cook, Vice President of University Advancement, to give an update on recent advancement initiatives. Along with Mr. Cook, Brian Browne of Benz, Whaley, Flessner & Associates, Inc., provided an update on the upcoming capital campaign.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Faculty Senate

Dr. Jason Lee shared updates with board members found in the Faculty Senate report.

B. Staff Senate

Anna Crawford shared updates with board members found in the Staff Senate report.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Robert Barber to enter Executive Session; seconded by Don Scott. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Board of Trustees returned from Executive Session. No action was taken in Executive Session and the board returned to open session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Holly Bracknell to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Peggy Makins. The motion passed by unanimous vote.