LANDER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lander University
Greenwood, South Carolina

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Presiding: Don Lloyd

Other Members of the Board in Attendance:

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

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; Brittney Brissey, Staff Senate Representative; Casey Cline, Director of Career Services.

Guests: Mya Atten, of the Index-Journal.

Chair Lloyd called the meeting to order. He welcomed the newest Lander University Board of Trustees member, Shawn Foxworth.

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, September 1, 2026.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Sabalis made the motion to approve the March 3, 2026 board meeting minutes, seconded by Peggy Makins.

The board meeting minutes from March 3, 2026 were approved by unanimous vote.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Men's Basketball: The president introduced Lander Men's Basketball Head Coach, Omar Wattad, and congratulated him on the most successful season in program history.

Artificial Intelligence: The president briefly spoke on AI implementation in the classroom and how current and future students plan to use it in their programs. He stated that he wants to help all students learn how to use and apply AI. The university has selected a candidate to be the Associate Provost of Artificial Intelligence, and they are slated to begin work on July 1, 2026.

Commission on Higher Education (CHE): The president announced that CHE is doing a broad and in-depth review of some programs that are experiencing low enrollment (Math, Spanish, PE, Environmental Science, and Music). He stated that Dr. Colbert has been in regular communication with CHE advocating for these programs. He also stated that there are no expected changes to staffing because of any CHE decision.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Institutional Advancement

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

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

Casey Cline, Director of Workforce and Career Development, shared a brief informational update with the board on the success of the student internship programs and other initiatives that the Office of Workforce and Career Development has been using to equip students with the tools, resources, and guidance for career success.

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.

C. Academic Affairs

Robert Barber was recognized to share updates from the Academic Affairs Committee Report. The Deans of all academic colleges shared a brief update with the board:

- Dr. Lloyd Willis, College of Business & Technology
- Dr. Stephen Bismarck, College of Education
- Dr. Lucas McMillan, College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
- Dr. Holisa Wharton, College of Nursing, Human Performance & Health Sciences
- Dr. Jennifer Yates, College of Science & Mathematics

The committee brought forward one action item:

1. **Graphic Design, B.A.** - Lander University proposes to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design, a new 120-credit-hour undergraduate degree designed to expand access to graphic design education for students whose needs are not fully served by the university's existing professional Bachelor of Design (BDES) in Graphic Design. The proposed BA is intended primarily for transfer students, working adults, place-bound students, and other learners who would benefit from a more flexible liberal arts structure and from delivery options that may include online instruction.

   The motion passed unanimously.

D. 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 six action items.

1. **Continuing Resolution Budget Proposal –** A proposal to extend the previous year's budget should the FY 2026-2027 general appropriations bill not be approved by July 1, 2026

   The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Meal Plan Fee Proposal –** The proposed Meal Plan Fee will remain flat for FY 2026-2027.

   The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Athletic Fee Increase and New Auxiliary Fee Proposal –** Lander University is proposing a modest increase to the Athletic Fee and the creation of a new Auxiliary Fee to support student-centered investments that tuition, state appropriations, and capital funding cannot fully address. These adjustments are designed to enhance the student experience, protect academic quality, and reduce pressure on future tuition increases.

   The motion passed unanimously.

4. **General Fees, Special Tuition Rates, Course & Program Fees, and Other Fee Proposals –** A proposed nominal increase to certain fees and rates for students. Under this proposed plan, affected students would only see an increase of $10.

   The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Inclusive Access Bookstore Fee –** This fee provides all students with the required textbooks and digital materials on the first day of class and is applied to the student's account when they register. Federal regulations require that students be able to opt out and obtain textbooks and materials independently if they prefer. This fee aims to improve equity by ensuring all students have access to required textbooks and materials at the beginning of each semester, and support academic success.

   The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Bonding Resolution for New Residence Hall –** Lander University requests approval of a bonding resolution to finance the construction of a new 300-bed residence hall, consistent with the permanent improvement project previously approved by the Board of Trustees at its December 2025 meeting. Approval of a bonding resolution for a new residence hall reflects sustained housing demand and long-term planning, with flexibility if enrollment patterns change.

   The motion passed unanimously.

<u>E. Policy</u>

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

1. **Institutional Data Governance Policy –** Lander University recognizes that its data and information are critical institutional assets. The university is dedicated to implementing governance programs that promote responsible usage, ensure date availability for informed decision-making and operational support, and proactively manage risks. These governance programs are designed, developed, and sustained to serve the interests of the university and its diverse stakeholders. This policy sets forth the framework and responsibilities for governance of university data and information.

2. **P-Card Manual Updates –** The proposed updates to the Lander University P-Card policy are to remain in compliance with State of South Carolina regulations.

Both policies were approved with a unanimous vote.

<u>F. Student Experience & Quality Assurance/Intercollegiate Athletics</u>

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

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IV. OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>A. Faculty Senate</u>

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

<u>B. Staff Senate</u>

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Robert Barber to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bob Sabalis. The motion passed by unanimous vote.