

Lincoln University Board of Trustees

Annual Meeting

April 12, 2025

MINUTES

The Lincoln University Board of Trustees held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 12, 2025, in the International Cultural Center Boardroom.

Mr. Gerald W. Bruce, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM Eastern. Trustee Kenric Lewis led the invocation. Trustee Jalila Parker, Secretary, called roll.

Trustees present: Mr. Gerald W. Bruce, Chair; Dr. Brenda A. Allen, President; Mr. James W. Jordan, Vice Chair; Robert L. Archie Jr., Esq.; Mr. Van Corbin; Emeritus Trustee Mr. Walter Chambers; Mr. Owen Cooks; Ms. Lorella Dicks; Mr. William F. Dunbar; Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Dr. Tiffany Harrison; Ms. Nandi Jones-Clement; Ms. Lisa MB Johnson; The Honorable Lydia Kirkland; Mr. Henry M. Lancaster, II; Dr. Wilbert LaVeist; Mr. Bertram L. Lawson II; Mr. Stephen Kenric Lewis; Mr. Everett Love; Ms. Tamara May; Ms. Mary Johnson Osirim; Mr. John "JP" Petty; Dr. Rodney Ridley; Dr. Charmaine Rochester; Mr. Jose Sabastro; Ms. Sandra F. Simmons; Ms. Jayla Turner; Mr. Kevin E. Vaughan; Dr. Corey D. B. Walker; and Faculty Representative: Dr. Karen Baskerville.

A quorum was satisfied.

Trustees excused: Mr. Steven Board; Mr. Michael Hancock; and Dr. Carrie Rowe

MINUTES

A motion to approve the draft minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held February 8 2025, was made and properly seconded. Trustee Jalila Parker conducted a roll call vote.

Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests for public comment.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF RECOGNITION

Chairman Gerald Bruce began the meeting with plaques representing a few Board members with their recognition of services for the Board. Each former Trustee received their plaques in acceptance. Chairman thanked them individually for their dedication to the Board and wished them a successful future.

AALU REMARKS

Ms. Charisse Carney-Nunes delivered her final remarks as AALU President with a tone of reflection and gratitude, emphasizing that alumni engagement remains strong and the work of the association continues. She introduced the “Three P’s”—People, Power, and Participation—as central to the AALU’s success and shared recent highlights under each theme.

People represent the heart of the Lincoln University community. Since the February meeting, the AALU has celebrated students and alumni through various events, including a Baltimore basketball gathering, school visits with LU’s Royal Court and SGA, and the donation of 100 *Thurgood* books to local elementary schools. They honored student athletes at a jazz luncheon, recognized distinguished alumni, and welcomed the Class of 2025 during Senior Salute Day. The upcoming commencement will also include a special tribute to Emeritus Trustee Dr. William Bennett, class of 1950, marking 75 years since his graduation.

Power centers on financial impact and support. The AALU’s 5th annual Golf Tournament, scheduled for July 21, 2025, will be held at Deerfield Golf Course in Delaware. Ms. Carney-Nunes called for registration, donations, and sponsorships to sustain AALU’s position as one of LU’s top 10 donors. She thanked trustees for their ongoing sponsorship and announced plans to reimagine Lincoln Family Day, which will take place the day before the tournament. Additionally, she updated the board on continued progress toward a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the university, aimed at increasing alumni giving and deepening collaboration.

Participation reflects alumni involvement and shared leadership. Ms. Carney-Nunes noted the transformation in board participation over her four-year term, thanking Chairman Bruce for his inclusive leadership. She celebrated the successful completion of the recent alumni election cycle and introduced the incoming AALU leadership team, led by President Dr. Eric B. Coates, class of 1988. The new officers are committed to a theme of excellence and will continue advancing the association’s mission.

Ms. Carney-Nunes closed her remarks by reaffirming her dedication to Lincoln University through the remainder of her term and the upcoming golf tournament. She encouraged the community to stay focused on People, Power, and Participation, stating it has been her greatest honor to serve as AALU President.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Bruce read aloud the Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Gerald Bruce expressed deep appreciation for the volunteerism and

dedication of those serving Lincoln University. He began by reflecting on the CIAA tournament. He also discussed productive donor meetings held during the event, which confirmed they were promising for the university's future partnerships and support.

Chairman Bruce then shared significant updates on the Lincoln University Foundation. He announced that the Foundation Board is now fully reconstructed with the addition of outstanding individuals committed to its mission of raising funds for the university. He also recounted his experience at the Mayor's Masked Ball in Philadelphia, where approximately \$30,000 in scholarships were raised for Lincoln University. Although the event primarily supports UNCF schools, Lincoln was included thanks to local advocacy. He went on to express pride in the university's physical transformation, particularly the restoration of Cresson Hall. The ribbon-cutting ceremony revealed a beautifully restored building that surpassed its original design, symbolizing tangible progress on campus and the fulfillment of long-term board initiatives.

Chairman Bruce concluded with excitement about two major accomplishments: the groundbreaking for a new residence hall and the launch of the ESports arena. He praised the team's efforts to close funding with the Department of Education and recognized Harry Stinson for spearheading the esports program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Allen highlighted recent milestones at Lincoln University, including the groundbreaking of the new residence hall and the ribbon cutting for Cresson Hall, both supported by the Department of Education and Price Capital.

Chairman Gerald Bruce was honored as a "Legacy Builder" for his unwavering leadership and service. President Allen also spoke about a few recent events at the university and highlighted Admitted Students Day. It showcased alumni stories to inspire prospective families and deepen connections.

In Washington, D.C., she met with federal leaders during the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Fly-In, affirming continued support for HBCUs and Pell Grants, with an executive order on HBCUs forthcoming.

The university also hosted a memorial for Dr. Langley and honored Sonia Sanchez with the inaugural Black Freedom Movement award. She also mentioned that Governor Wes Moore will speak at Commencement, adding personal significance as he is the grandson of a Lincoln alumnus.

President Allen introduced speakers, Ms. Maya Mapp, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management and Edison Freire, Vice President for Extension and Engagement, School of Adult & Continuing Education - Graduate Programs to begin their reports.

Ms. Maya Mapp provided an overview of Lincoln University's enrollment and retention strategy, underscoring the need to invest equally in retaining students and in recruiting them. While undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2025 looks promising, transfer numbers are shortened—prompting new initiatives, including community college partnerships and the hiring of

Shaliyah Braxton, the new Executive Director of Admissions, to bring structure and expand outreach, especially in Philadelphia.

On the retention front, Maya noted encouraging registration trends, supported by strategies like linking housing to class registration and expanding academic advising.

Retention and graduation data revealed that out-of-state students—despite greater financial need—graduate at higher rates than in-state peers. Pell-eligible and first-generation students, who make up the majority at Lincoln in graduation rates. Maya stressed the importance of support systems tailored to their needs, such as first-generation student centers.

Mapp advocated for improved data tracking and early intervention to proactively support students, ultimately urging the institution to use student exit data to inform systemic improvements and close equity gaps.

Mr. Edison Freire provided an update on Lincoln University's workforce development and funding efforts, acknowledging ongoing uncertainty in federal and state funding while highlighting several key initiatives and advocacy strategies. Mr. Freire emphasized progress on current projects and future planning. Technology upgrades for six facilities are underway and will culminate in a celebratory event in October. Additionally, a new Medical Assistant Training Program will launch with 14 candidates out of more than 200 applicants, signaling strong regional demand for healthcare training.

Mr. Freire noted the institution's ongoing collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia and efforts to align with funding cycles for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. He described diverging budget strategies in Congress: the House favors major investment in education and workforce development, while the Senate focuses on cost savings. Given this gap, Mr. Freire stressed the importance of bipartisan advocacy and direct engagement with lawmakers, including Senator Fetterman's staff and local representatives like Chris Rabb.

Lincoln is also strengthening ties with Philadelphia Works, which previously funded the Medical Assistant program and is showing interest in deeper collaboration. Plans include a June 2 meeting to align future funding priorities. Mr. Freire also mentioned potential partnerships with the African American and Latino Charter School Coalitions to address the teacher shortage, leveraging Lincoln's human services and graduate education programs.

Freire concluded by outlining strategic next steps: expanding Lincoln's role in workforce development through short-term certification programs, securing funding via workforce intermediaries, and capitalizing on

relationships with city officials, including Lincoln alumni in key roles, to align with the mayor's workforce priorities. Mr. Freire emphasized the need for flexibility, innovation, and proactive advocacy to ensure Lincoln continues to serve its community effectively.

President Allen concluded her report with any questions from the Board.

TREASURERS REPORT

Mr. Wilbourne Rusere, Vice President for Finance and Administration gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report. The Board of Trustees accepted the Treasurer's Report as information.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Business Affairs Committee

Trustee Charmaine Rochester, Chair of the Business Affairs Committee, presented the following resolutions for approval by the Board of Trustees.

2025-2026 Operating Budget

RES777_041225

RESOLVED, that the 2025-2026 Operating Budget presented by the administration showing total expenses of \$80,423,000 is approved.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Motion passed unanimously.

2025-2026 Capital Budget

RES778_041225

RESOLVED, that the 2025-2026 Capital Budget presented by the administration for \$20,000,000 is approved.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Motion passed unanimously.

Educational Policy and Academic Affairs Committee

Trustee Mary Johnson Osirim, Chair of the Education Policy and Academic Affairs Committee, presented the following resolution for approval by the Board of Trustees.

Emeritus Professor Recommendations

RES779_041225

RESOLVED, in accordance with the CBA - Section 2.12. Professor Emeritus or Emerita the Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to be awarded to retired professors:

Dr. Gwinyai Muzorewa, dedicated 26 years of service, retired professor of religion retired in 2024

Dr. Safo Kwame, dedicated 34 years to Lincoln University as a philosophy professor, retired in fall 2023.

Dr. Patricia Joseph, dedicated 40 years to Lincoln University as Provost and Dean of Faculty, retired in 2025.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Motion passed unanimously.

4 Credit Course Model

RES780_041225

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation of the Educational Policies and Academic Affairs Committee to implement and adopt a 4-credit curriculum.

A roll call vote was conducted.

Motion passed unanimously.

Trustees, Degrees & Nominations Committee

Trustee Henry Lancaster, Chair of the Trustees, Degrees & Nominations Committee, presented the following resolution for approval by the Board of Trustees.

2025-2026 Election of Board Officers

RES781_041225

RESOLVED, That the following slate of officers were elected to a term of two years (2025-2026 and 2026-2027) as stipulated by the By-Laws of Lincoln University:

- Chair: Mr. Van Corbin
- Vice-Chair: Dr. Charmaine Rochester
- Secretary: Mr. Steven Kenric Lewis

A roll call vote was conducted.

Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman convened Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. The public session reconvened following the close of Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairs for the Buildings and Properties, Planning and Development/External Affairs, Student Affairs, and Audit Committees provided reports to the Board and addressed questions from Trustees. The Board accepted the Committee reports as information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Bruce adjourned the meeting at 1 PM.