

Lincoln University Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

The Lincoln University Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on Saturday, February 20, 2021 virtually via Zoom. Chairlady Theresa R. Braswell called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM Eastern. Trustee Steven Kenric Lewis led the group in prayer. Ms. Diane Brown, Manager, Office of the Board of Trustees called roll.

Trustees present via Zoom: Chairlady Theresa R. Braswell; Dr. Brenda A. Allen, President; Mr. Robert A. Allen; Robert L. Archie, Jr., Esquire; Mr. Gerald Bruce; Mr. Mack Cauthen; Mr. Owen Cooks; Mr. Van Corbin; The Honorable Andrew Dinniman; Mr. William F. Dunbar; Dr. Judith L. Fitzgerald; Ms. Niare Galvez; Dr. Tanya Garcia; Mr. James W. Jordan; Mr. Henry M. Lancaster, II; Mr. Stephen Kenric Lewis; Ms. Kimberly A. Lloyd; Ms. Jalila Parker; Rev. Dr. Frances E. Paul; Mr. Kenneth A. Poole; Mr. Jose Sabastro; Ms. Sandra F. Simmons; Honorable Doris A. Smith-Ribner; Dr. Deborah C. Thomas; Mr. Kevin E. Vaughan; Dr. Corey D. B. Walker; Mr. Mr. Joseph V. Williams, Jr.; Mr. Gregory Works; and Faculty Representative: Dr. Emmanuel Babatunde. *A quorum was satisfied.*

Trustees excused: Dr. Charmaine Spence Rochester

Trustees absent: Ms. Felicia McDade

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees approved the draft minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held November 21, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carmina Taylor addressed the Board including comments relating but not limited to the Lincoln University Commonwealth Act of 1972, trustee terms, and stakeholder accessibility.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Steven Snyder of the CommonFund presented the status of the endowment and responded to questions posed by Trustees.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairlady Braswell read aloud the Conflict of Interest Statement.

CHAIRLADY'S REPORT

Chairlady Braswell welcomed newly appointed Trustees, Mr. Van Corbin '81, the Honorable Doris Smith-Ribner, and Dr. Corey D. B. Walker, then invited each to "say a few words" to the group.

Chairlady Braswell discussed the cancellation of the Board Retreat scheduled for January 2021 and provided an overview of proposals to 1) Restructure Board Committee Process, 2) Restructure Trustee Nominations Process, and a Statement of Trustee Roles and Responsibilities.

The Board Chair relayed that Trustees are expected to participate in signature University events such as Convocation and Commencement, and added that the success of the Board is dependent upon the mutual understanding of the role and responsibility of the Board as a whole as well as the responsibilities for individual trustees.

Chairlady called a brief recess at 10:21 AM. The Board meeting reconvened at 10:30 AM at which time, Chairlady Braswell introduced President Allen who presented the President's Quarterly Report to the Board of Trustees.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Allen reported on the status of the strategic plan, *Re-imagining the Legacy: Learn. Liberate. Lead.* adopted in April 2018, and outlined the work accomplished for each strategic theme and objective. The President elaborated on the progress of the highest priorities of the strategic plan and relayed that the five themes had evolved into four major pillars: (1) Enhancing Academic Quality; (2) Improving the Student Experience; (3) Addressing the Student Financial Gap, and (4) Improving Infrastructure. Dr. Allen added that the pillars guide the University's investments, capture the interrelationship of the work within each strategic theme, and reveal the overall impact of Lincoln's progress on student success.

The President acknowledged faculty and staff for living up to Lincoln's values of "respect responsibility and results."

Dr. Allen relayed that a *Master Plan Offices* document had been completed and provided the status of construction and renovation projects including an update on the six buildings currently under construction on campus: Dickey Hall, Azikiwe Nkrumah Hall, Amos Hall, International Cultural Center, Vail Memorial Hall, and Cresson Hall. President Allen added that the next buildings slated for renovations include Manuel Rivero Hall, Houston Hall, Bond House, and McCauley Hall and acknowledged the generous and continued support of the Commonwealth for Lincoln's historic campus.

The President discussed updates to the University's technology and systems including the implementation of Canvas - Lincoln's new Learning management System, and an upgrade to Microsoft Office 365, which advances the University's cyber security around email, the expansion of wi-fi and internet capabilities campus-wide, and the recent addition of touchscreen technology, which includes the purchase of 20 new touch screen devices. President Allen addressed Trustee inquiries, and Trustees commended Dr. Allen for her efforts and leadership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Charles Gradowski, Vice President for Finance and Administration provided the Treasurer's Report, which the Board accepted as information.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Business Affairs

Committee Chair, Gerald Bruce reviewed the minutes from the committee meeting held February 10, 2021, and presented two resolutions to the Board for approval.

2021-2022 TUITION AND FEES INCREASE

RES659_022021

WHEREAS, Lincoln University administration has adequately substantiated the necessity for a 2.5% tuition and related fees increase for undergraduate students; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Lincoln University 2021-2022 tuition and fees increase described above are hereby approved.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

2021-2022 ROOM AND BOARD INCREASE

RES660_022021

WHEREAS, Lincoln University administration has adequately substantiated the necessity for a 2.5% increase for room and board; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Lincoln University 2021-2022 room and board increase described above is hereby approved.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

Trustee Bruce added that the University expects to close out the fiscal year in a very good place, and congratulated Dr. Allen and her team for the diligent efforts to ensure excellent financial management throughout the pandemic.

Educational Policy and Academic Affairs

Committee Chair, Robert Allen reviewed the minutes from the February 4, 2021 committee meeting and presented the following resolution to the Board:

2021-2022 PROMOTION AND TENURE

RES661_022021

WHEREAS, members of the Faculty have applied for promotion and/or tenure and promotion

WHEREAS, the Promotion, Tenure and Severance Committee evaluated the applications; and

WHEREAS, the Dean and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs have reviewed the applications; and

WHEREAS, the President has reviewed the recommendations of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following personnel actions are hereby approved:

- **Denise Brown** – recommended for tenure and promotion from the level of Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.
- **Melina McConatha** – recommended for tenure and promotion from the level of Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.
- **Anna Hull** – recommended for promotion from the level of Associate Professor to Full Professor.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

Trustees Degrees and Nominations

Committee Chair, Sandra Simmons reviewed the minutes from the committee meeting held January 19, 2021, and presented the following resolutions to the Board:

**APPOINTMENT OF 2020-2021 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
MS. NIARE GALVEZ**

RES662_022021

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2D of the Lincoln University By-Laws (Revised November 20, 1999) provides that one of the eighteen University Trustees shall be a student representative who shall serve for a term of one year; and

WHEREAS, by resolution dated February 19, 2000, the Board of Trustees approved the Student Government Association (SGA) process of determining the student representative to the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the process approved provides, pursuant to the Constitution of the SGA, that the SGA President will be the student representative to the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the President resigned from his position with the SGA and as the Student Representative to the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, *Niare Galvez*, elected SGA Vice President for Internal Affairs, is currently the highest ranking officer and serving as President of the SGA for the remaining 2020-2021 academic year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lincoln University Board of Trustees hereby appoints **Niare Galvez** as Student Representative to the Board of Trustees in her capacity as President of the SGA for the term expiring on June 2021.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

**HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT 2021
MS. MACKENZIE SCOTT**

RES663_022021

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 11, of the Lincoln University By-laws (Amended February 12, 2011) sets forth the functions of the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations; and

WHEREAS, after Faculty input as required by the University By-laws, the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations has made its recommendation of honorary degrees to be awarded at the May 2021 Commencement exercises; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation of the Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations Committee to award an honorary degree to **Mackenzie Scott** at the May 2021 Lincoln University Commencement.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

**HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT 2021
DR. CHARLES V. HAMILTON**

RES664_022021

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 11, of the Lincoln University By-laws (Amended February 12, 2011) sets forth the functions of the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations; and

WHEREAS, after Faculty input as required by the University By-laws, the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations has made its recommendation of honorary degrees to be awarded at the May 2021 Commencement exercises; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation of the Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations Committee to award an honorary degree to *Dr. Charles V. Hamilton* at the May 2021 Lincoln University Commencement.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

**HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT 2021
DR. JAMES D. ANDERSON**

RES665_022021

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 11, of the Lincoln University By-laws (Amended February 12, 2011) sets forth the functions of the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations; and

WHEREAS, after Faculty input as required by the University By-laws, the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations has made its recommendation of honorary degrees to be awarded at the May 2021 Commencement exercises; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation of the Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations Committee to award an honorary degree to *Dr. James D. Anderson* at the May 2021 Lincoln University Commencement.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

**HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT 2021
MR. SHAWN COREY CARTER**

RES666_022021

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 11, of the Lincoln University By-laws (Amended February 12, 2011) sets forth the functions of the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations; and

WHEREAS, after Faculty input as required by the University By-laws, the Committee on Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations has made its recommendation of honorary degrees to be awarded at the May 2021 Commencement exercises; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation of the Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations Committee to award an honorary degree to *Shawn Corey Carter* at the May 2021 Lincoln University Commencement.

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairs for the Audit, Buildings and Property, Planning and Development / External Affairs, and Student Affairs Committees provided reports to the Board and addressed questions from Trustees. Chairlady Braswell provided that the report from the CommonFund would serve as the official report from the Investment Committee. The Board accepted the Committee reports as information.

Chief Marc Partee provided an update on the COVID-19 Task Force and responded to questions from Trustees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairlady Braswell announced that Trustee Sandra Simmons, Chair of the Trustees, Degrees, and Nominations Committee would send a request for nominations for Board Officers for the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 term to Trustees the following week via email.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairlady Braswell called an Executive Session at 12:38 PM to discuss personnel and legal issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon reconvening the meeting at 12:43 PM, no new business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairlady Braswell adjourned the meeting at 12:53 PM.