



CONCORDIA SEMINARY
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
OCTOBER 1-2, 2020

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Board Members present: Rev. Dr. Tyler Arnold, Dr. Paul Edmon, Mr. Paul Hegland, Rev. Bruce Keseman, Dr. John Lang, Rev. Peter Lange, Rev. W. Maximillian Mons, Mr. Bruce Paradis, Rev. Todd Peperkorn, Dr. Michael Staub, Mr. Mark Stern, Rev. Dr. John Wille.

Board Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: President Daniel Preus, Provost Douglas Rutt, Mr. Michael Louis, Mr. Chad Cattoor, Associate Provost Benjamin Haupt.

Guests Present: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.

Chairman Peperkorn called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Devotion. Dr. Timothy Dost joined the meeting and opened the meeting with a devotion “Built on the Rock” addressing his research interests. The board thanked Dr. Dost for his insightful presentation.

Minutes and Agenda. After Dr. Dost left the meeting, Chairman Peperkorn reviewed the regular session minutes from the August 26-27, 2020 board meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to approve the minutes as presented [20-80]; the motion was seconded and carried.

Minutes and Agenda. Chairman Peperkorn reviewed the agenda.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to adopt the agenda as presented, with the inclusion of an additional action item from the Academic Committee as distributed; the motion [20-81] was seconded and carried by show of hands. It was noted that motion numbering will follow the calendar year rather than the academic or fiscal year, so the 21-series motions will begin as of January 2021.

Chairman’s Report. Chairman Peperkorn welcomed President Harrison to the meeting, and presented a brief overview of the items to be considered at this meeting.

President's Report. President Preus directed the board to his written report. He noted that last week a “Student Convocation on Race Relations” was held. This was scheduled after the symposium was canceled. President Preus noted that he has received a number of comments from students and others on the program, and he will be meeting with the organizers of the event to address these issues.

Recruitment and Enrollment. Rev. Keseman reported that the Enrollment Committee would like to set up a meeting with Rev. Kevin Robson and Dr. James Baneck, ideally in conjunction with representatives from the Concordia Theological Seminary Board of Regents, to determine how the various parties can work together and support one another on recruitment and enrollment issues. He noted that it would be helpful to establish some consistency in the fees of various pastoral preparation programs.

The board recessed for Chapel at 9:25 a.m.

The board reconvened at 10:30 a.m. President Harrison was absent from this session.

Dr. Haupt referenced his written report in the board packet. There has been a significant increase of over 50% in incoming MDiv enrollment this academic year, and it is projected that there will be a further increase for next academic year. He has conducted focus groups with students to learn more about their discernment process. Guaranteed tuition is a major factor for students, and this has been shared with donors so they know how important their support is for seminary enrollment. The committee will evaluate what is the optimal level of enrollment.

Financial Reports. Vice Chairman Mons reported on behalf of the Audit Committee that the committee met yesterday with Brown Smith Wallace, the Seminary’s auditors, and the audit report is “clean” with no adjustments. Copies have been provided to the board. Mr. Cattoor discussed the financial statements and the audit process. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, the Seminary reported a \$52,015 unrestricted surplus.

Dr. Wille moved that the Board accept the audit. The motion [20-82] was seconded and carried.

Dr. Wille moved that the Seminary negotiate a three-year extension of its audit contract with Brown Smith Wallace; the motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion [20-83] carried.

Governance Committee. On behalf of the Governance Committee, Vice Chairman Mons moved to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy, which is an annual requirement; the motion [20-84] carried. All board members signed acknowledgments of the policy.

The board recessed for lunch at 11:35 a.m.

The board reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Financial Reports, continued.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Paradis moved adoption of the proposed schedule of tuition and fees for the 2021-2022 academic year, representing a 3% increase over the current year. After discussion, the motion [20-85] carried.

A motion was made and carried to enter executive session, with staff and guests present.

The board entered executive session at 12:50 p.m.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION]

The board exited executive session at 2:50 p.m. No action was taken in executive session.

The board recessed at 2:50 p.m.

The board reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

Mr. Louis reported on the LCMS Foundation asset allocation strategies and the impact thereof on the Seminary's investment returns on endowment assets.

Board Policy Committee. Dr. Wille led a discussion on the board manual. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Wille moved approval of a revision to section 4.2(g) of the manual; after discussion the motion [20-86] carried.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Wille moved approval of the addition of new section 7.2 of the manual; after discussion the motion [20-87] carried.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Wille moved approval of the addition of the wording of section 12.4 of the manual; after discussion the motion [20-88] carried.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Wille moved approval of the addition of the wording of section 13.12 of the manual; after discussion the motion [20-89] carried.

A motion to dissolve the Handbook Ad Hoc Committee, with responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the Board Manual thereafter assigned to the Governance Committee, was seconded and carried [20-90]. The board noted its appreciation for the dedicated and diligent assistance of Dr. LeRoy Wilke, whose service on as a board member concluded in August 2019, but who has continued to serve as a consultant to the Handbook Committee.

Presidential Search Report. Vice Chairman Mons reported that the presidential search committee has been meeting. Initially 42 nominees agreed to allow their names to stand; two have subsequently withdrawn. The committee has obtained references from the remaining nominees; additional materials are due from the nominees on October 9. PIFs and SETs have been received. The presidential election is scheduled to occur on February 6, 2021. It was noted that because the bylaws require interviews of all finalists on the slate to occur on the election date, it would be preferable to reduce the number of finalists to fewer than five.

Strategic Plan and Board Self-Evaluation. Chairman Peperkorn noted that the strategic plan runs through 2020, so we should continue and/or update it; this will be an action item for 2021 in conjunction with the new president. It was noted that the mission and vision statement also need to be updated as part of this process, prior to finalizing the strategic plan.

Academic Committee. Dr. Edmon introduced the committee's resolution to ask the administration to study enhancement of alternate routes, which will be voted on tomorrow. Dr. Edmon then moved to enter executive session with President Preus, President Harrison, and Dr. Rutt present; the motion carried and the board entered executive session at 4:07 p.m.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION]

The board exited executive session at 4:28 p.m. The following actions were taken in executive session:

The term contract of Associate Professor Dr. Abjar Bahkou was renewed for a second three-year term from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 [20-91].

Professor Dr. Mark Seifrid was moved to a continuing-level appointment effective July 1, 2021 [20-92].

The board stood in recess at 4:28 p.m.

Friday, October 2, 2020

Board Members present: Rev. Dr. Tyler Arnold, Dr. Paul Edmon, Mr. Paul Hegland, Dr. John Lang, Rev. Peter Lange, Rev. W. Maximillian Mons, Mr. Bruce Paradis, Rev. Todd Peperkorn, Dr. Michael Staub, Mr. Mark Stern, Rev. Dr. John Wille.

Board Members Absent: Rev. Bruce Keseman (excused).

Staff Present: President Daniel Preus, Provost Douglas Rutt, Associate Provost Benjamin Haupt.

Guests Present: Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan.

Chairman Peperkorn called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Devotion. Dr. Gerhard Bode joined the meeting and opened the meeting with a devotion from Revelation 12, the Epistle for the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels. He then shared information about his role at the Seminary as professor of historical theology, archivist, and dean of advanced studies, and the international component of the graduate programs. The board thanked Dr. Bode for his engaging presentation.

Academic Committee, continued. After Dr. Bode left the meeting, Chairman Peperkorn asked Dr. Edmon to present the committee's action item to enhance alternate routes. Dr. Edmon outlined the actions proposed in the resolution. If adopted, the resolution asks the administration, in conjunction with the faculty, to prepare a plan by which the non-residential alternate routes would be delivered as tracks within the SMP format, consistent with the original intent of 2007 Convention Res. 5-01B that created the SMP program. The motion was unanimously adopted by the academic committee. After discussion, Mr. Hegland moved to postpone consideration of the resolution to the May 2021 meeting; the motion [20-93] was seconded and carried by show of hands.

The board recessed for Chapel at 9:25 a.m.

The board reconvened at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Kent Burreson joined the meeting. Dr. Wille was absent from this session. Mr. Paradis left during the session.

Communion policy. Mr. Hegland moved to adopt the proposed chapel communion policy; the motion was seconded and discussion followed. President Preus introduced Dr. Kent Burreson, Dean of Chapel, to discuss current practices. Vice Chairman Mons moved to table the resolution; the motion was seconded [20-94].

After Dr. Burreson left the meeting, Dr. Edmon moved to enter executive session with President Preus present; the motion was seconded and carried.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION]

The board exited executive session at 12:13 p.m. No action was taken in executive session.

Mr. Hegland moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded and carried by show of hands, and the Board adjourned at 12:14 p.m. with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark O. Stern, Board Secretary