



CONCORDIA SEMINARY
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
APRIL 29, 2020 – 10 a.m. via Zoom Call

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.

Guests Present: Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm.

Board Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: None.

Chairman Peperkorn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion Item. Presidential Search. Chairman Peperkorn reported that last Thursday, the Presidential Search Committee (PSC) met and requested additional time to complete its work. Chairman Peperkorn agreed to convene this meeting to allow discussion of the request. Last night, he received a written report from the PSC with its proposed timeline, which he circulated to the Board and the Electors last night.

Mr. Hegland moved to enter executive session with guests present; the motion was seconded and **carried**.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION, including action item 20-34]

After executive session, the board returned to regular session. In regular session, Chairman Peperkorn reported that we need to schedule the slate-setting meeting. By common consent, the meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at noon CT by Zoom videoconference.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried, and the Board adjourned with the benediction at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark O. Stern, Board Secretary

ACTION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS – CONCORDIA SEMINARY

To Advance the Presidential Search, in Consultation with the Electors

Background: On January 15, 2020, the Board announced the list of presidential nominees, and published notice to the Synod that the presidential election would occur on May 16, consistent with the timeline included in Chairman Peperkorn’s October 4, 2019 memo to the faculty.

The presidential search committee thereafter conducted on-campus fora with many constituencies. The committee developed a rubric for vetting nominees that included three categories: essential credentials, desired credentials, and items for consideration. On February 26, PIFs, SETs, *curricula vitae*, and reference information for the nominees were furnished to the committee members, who worked with great promptness to complete their first round of vetting on March 3 (six days later). The first round reduced the number of nominees in consideration to 14. Over the next three weeks, the committee completed its second round of vetting. On March 27, the committee reported to the Electors a list of six nominees who were “highly recommended” based on the committee’s criteria, and eight nominees who were “recommended with reservation”.

On March 23, the Seminary campus closed. The committee stated in its report that it “believes a pause in the process, at least to the end of the academic term, May 21, 2020, is warranted and would prove helpful. That said, we welcome counsel and conversation with the electors.” Chairman Peperkorn immediately conveyed this information to the Board to poll whether the Board wished to hold a special meeting to extend the timeline; there was no consensus and the Board did not extend the timeline. The committee has now renewed its suggestion for an extension of time.

Findings: After careful consideration of the reports of the committee, current national conditions, and the needs of the Seminary, the Board finds as follows:

1. The committee, following two rounds of vetting, has presented a list of sixteen individuals for consideration to serve as president. That list meets the requirements of Bylaw 3.10.5.6.2(g).
2. Given travel restrictions and the academic year end, in-person interviews and evaluations are not possible now, and most likely will be difficult or impossible for months.
3. If the election process were delayed to the extent proposed by the committee, the Seminary would require an interim president, possibly through the end of 2020 or longer.
4. Dr. Meyer has assembled a highly qualified administrative team who could operate the Seminary in the absence of a president. However, in this critical time when we face many unknowns, decisions with significant and long-term impact will present themselves in the next several months. It is in the best interests of the Seminary that, God willing, the new, called president (who will lead the Seminary for years to come) be on campus to guide them, rather than a temporary president.
5. Timely election of a new president will benefit the entire Seminary community, as well as our Synod-wide constituencies, by reducing uncertainty, reassuring donors, and demonstrating a smooth transition to build on the strong foundation established under Dr. Meyer.

Be it therefore resolved:

1. The Board extends its gratitude to the members of the presidential search committee for their diligent, thorough, and churchmanlike work for the benefit of the Seminary and the Church at large in this stressful time.
2. The Board accepts, pursuant to Bylaw 3.10.5.6.2(g), the presidential search committee's list of sixteen nominees as submitted to the Electors on March 27, 2020.
3. The Board recommends to the Electors that a special meeting of the Board and the Electors be held on May 2, 2020, by videoconference, to finalize the slate of nominees pursuant to Bylaw 3.10.5.6.2(i), following which the Board Secretary shall publish the slate in official Synod publications as soon as possible.
4. The presidential search committee may also continue to conduct such additional inquiries relating to the nominees on the slate as the committee deems appropriate and may submit further written reports to the Electors, until 5 p.m. on May 15, 2020.

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Approved in Executive Session, April 29, 2020 (Action Item 20-34).