



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

CONCORDIA SEMINARY
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
AUGUST 1-2, 2024

Thursday, August 1, 2024

Board Members present: Rev. Joel Brondos, Dr. Paul Edmon, Mr. Matthew Kenitzer, Rev. Bruce Keseman, Dr. John Lang, Rev. Peter Lange, Rev. W. Maximillian Mons, Mr. Bruce Paradis, Dr. Michael Staub, Mr. Mark Stern.

Board Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz.

Staff Present: President Thomas Egger, Provost Ronald Mudge, Mr. Michael Louis, Mr. Chad Cattoor, Mrs. Vicki Biggs.

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

Devotion. President Egger led the meeting in a devotion.

Minutes and Agenda.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to approve the minutes from the May 16-17, 2024 meeting as presented; the motion [24-32] was seconded and carried.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to adopt the agenda as presented; the motion [24-33] was seconded and carried.

President's Report. President Egger directed the Board to his written report and discussed various activities over the summer.

Board Manual Review. Dr. Staub led a discussion of Board Manual sections 8 through 12. Section 9.2 was discussed with regard to refining a process for Board (or Board committee) review of initiatives that would require material spending and/or staff time, or that would involve material third party obligations (e.g., grants), similar to the gift acceptance policy. The governance committee will draft more precise language.

Dr. Staub also reported that the Executive Committee is working on organizing the Board Manual as a word document, incorporating Dr. Wille's revisions to track the 2023 Synod Handbook changes. Going forward, any policy changes should be adopted as amendments to specific sections of the manual, to facilitate updates.

Finance Committee. Mr. Louis presented an update on the status of the (January 2017) Campus Master Plan, as well as colocation discussions.

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

The Board reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

LCEF Presentation. Rev. Dr. Bart Day, President and CEO, and Tom Campbell, Senior Vice President for Real Estate Solutions, from Lutheran Church Extension Fund, joined the Board. Dr. Day led a discussion regarding LCEF current activities, including its engagement with seminarians to make them aware of the opportunities for ministry support that LCEF provides. Mr. Campbell discussed real estate solutions that LCEF can provide to assist LCMS congregations and entities with the use and redevelopment of excess real estate they may own to generate revenue in support of their ministries. He also discussed work the LCEF is doing to assist various Synod entities with excess space capacity and future use planning, and how the LCEF can assist the Seminary with financing options for the Campus Master Plan developments. The Board thanked Dr. Day and Mr. Campbell for their informative presentations, and they were excused from the meeting.

Finance Committee, continued. Mr. Louis presented an update on the status of the Washington University transaction. We are nearing the end of the City of Clayton approval process. Discussion followed regarding the timeline for the capital campaign and construction work.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Finance Committee, continued. Discussion continued regarding the timeline for the capital campaign and construction work.

Mr. Stern moved that the Board enter executive session with staff present; the motion was seconded and carried.

The Board entered executive session at 1:17 p.m.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION, including adoption of action item 24-34.]

The Board exited executive session at 2:47 p.m.

Finance Committee, continued. Mr. Cattoor presented the FY 2024-2025 Budget summary and the June 30, 2024 financial statements. The Seminary had an operating surplus of approximately \$2.5 million for the fiscal year. The statements are currently unaudited; the audit will commence shortly and we will have audited financials for issuance following the November meeting.

Advancement. Mrs. Biggs directed the Board to her written report, and presented development results. Total direct gifts received in FY2024 were \$26 million, which is the second best year in history, trailing only FY2022 by approximately \$1.5 million. The nationwide trend toward larger gifts from fewer donors continues to be borne out in our results. As we are now in the *Christ the Cornerstone Campaign*, there will be regular quarterly reports on campaign progress beginning with the next meeting. She reported that the national campaign cabinet is being formed. She also noted the growth of donor-advised funds as a vehicle for giving.

Provost. Dr. Mudge directed the Board to his written report. He also discussed changes in the recruitment and enrollment area. Recent accreditation reports suggested growth areas to simplify and improve assessment processes at the Seminary; work is in process to do this. Following recent hires, no faculty and staff searches are anticipated for the forthcoming academic year.

The Board welcomed Rev. Jesse Kueker, admissions officer and Interim Director of Recruitment, to the meeting. He provided highlights from the enrollment report in the Board packet, and discussed current recruitment strategies.

Rev. Kueker stated that the enrollment goal is 75 intentions to enroll with a goal of 70 MDiv admissions for the 2025-2026 academic year. We currently anticipate 51 MDiv and 5 residential alternate route students enrolling for fall 2024. Discussion followed. Rev. Kueker also shared statistical information regarding SMP applicants, information they had about the program, and whether they spoke with CSL admissions prior to submitting their applications. Where district presidents and local pastors encourage candidates to pursue residential study, the candidates are more likely to seek residential study. The Board thanked Rev. Kueker for his excellent work, and he was excused from the meeting.

Finance Committee, continued. Discussion continued regarding colocation issues and the Campus Master Plan.

Governance Committee. Chairman Mons reported that the committee completed the presidential review, which will be covered tomorrow. The committee is building on the work of +Rev. Dr. John Wille to update the Board Manual. The Council of Presidents will elect a successor to the COP seat on the Board, later this fall.

Academic Committee. Dr. Edmon reported that several committee members attended the CMC intensive on campus. The committee also discussed associations with 1517 and other organizations, but no formal action was taken.

Finance Committee, continued. Mr. Paradis noted that the committee had not met, but its members have independently reviewed the financial statements, development report, and Campus Master Plan issues.

Recruitment and Enrollment Committee. Rev. Keseman reported that the committee met with Rev. Kueker to review the enrollment report. The committee also reviewed Dr. Haupt's sabbatical work conclusions and exit interview materials. Discussion followed.

The Board recessed at 5 p.m. until 8 a.m. on August 2.

Friday, August 2, 2024

Board Members present in person: Rev. Joel Brondos, Dr. Paul Edmon, Mr. Matthew Kenitzer, Rev. Bruce Keseman, Dr. John Lang, Rev. Peter Lange, Rev. W. Maximillian Mons, Mr. Bruce Paradis, Dr. Michael Staub, Mr. Mark Stern.

Board Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz.

Staff Present: President Thomas Egger, Provost Ronald Mudge, Mr. Michael Louis, Mr. Chad Cattoor, Mrs. Vicki Biggs.

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

Devotion. Mr. Paradis led the meeting in a brief devotion.

Strategic Plan Implementation Review. Chairman Mons directed the Board to the Strategic Plan Implementation report, and Dr. Egger led the Board in a detailed review of the report and the status of the items thereon. Extensive discussion followed.

Walkout Commemoration. Dr. Edmon moved that the Board approve the wording and design for, and Board members fund the cost of installing, a plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the rebuilding of the Seminary following the 1974 Walkout. He distributed copies of proposed wording and design for the plaque, which would be similar to the Tyndale and Gustavus Adolphus plaques and would be placed in the Walther arch. After discussion and agreed modifications, the motion [24-35] carried unanimously.

The Board recessed for Chapel at 9:23 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Report on Centers. Dr. Egger distributed a summary of the five Seminary "Centers", their budgets, and their activities. The centers are the Center for Hispanic Studies, Center for Reformation Research, Center for the Care of Creation, Center for the Study of Early Christian Texts, and Institute for Mission Studies. The centers differ significantly in their operation and scope. It was noted that the "Concordia Center for the Family" is a separate organization and not part of the Seminary. Discussion followed.

Review of Lyman Stone Study. Dr. Edmon presented an overview of the study “Those Who Are Being Saved – Report on the Results of the 2023 Lutheran Religious Life Survey” by Lyman Stone, a copy of which is included in the Board packet. Extensive discussion followed.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Joint Collaboration Team Report. Mr. Kenitzer directed the Board to his written report, and discussed his work with Tim Sheldon of the CTSFW Board of Regents on defining the role of joint board work toward enhancing collaboration between the two seminaries, and how we can benefit from a strong culture of collaboration. Extensive discussion followed. Rev. Brondos moved that the Board receive the Kenitzer-Sheldon Report with thanksgiving; the motion was seconded and carried [24-36]. The Board consensus is supportive of what is outlined in that Report, and Dr. Egger will review it with Dr. Bruss at their next meeting. It was also suggested that the joint portion of the November meeting be condensed to a half day unless more time is required for specific action items.

Review of Omnibus Resolution from 2023 Synod Convention. Dr. Egger led the Board in a review of the convention overtures that were referred to the Board by 2023 Convention Omnibus Resolution A from Floor Committee 6. Discussion followed.

Board Workplan. Chairman Mons led the Board in a review of the proposed Board workplan for the upcoming year, including more detailed scheduling for the November 2024 joint meeting in St. Louis. The Board agreed to set additional meeting dates of February 12-13, 2026; May 14-15, 2026; August 6-7, 2026; and November 5-6, 2026 (joint boards, in St. Louis, subject to confirmation from CTSFW). Discussion followed.

Dr. Edmon moved that the Board enter executive session; the motion was seconded and carried.

The Board entered executive session at 2:45 p.m.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION, including adoption of action items 24-37 through 24-39.]

The Board exited executive session at 4:28 p.m.

Chairman Mons read the obituary for +The Rev. Dr. John C. Wille, who served as the Council of Presidents representative on our Board until his death on June 10, 2024. To the glory of God and in memory of President Wille, the Board rose and sang *For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest*. Chairman Mons then gave a closing prayer.

Dr. Edmon moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded and carried, and the Board adjourned with prayer at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark O. Stern, Board Secretary