

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, APRIL 20-22, 2017

Among the matters considered and acted upon by the board of directors and its committees at the April meeting were the following:

- President-elect Meredith Woo attended her first board meeting and provided a statement of her first impressions and plans for strategic planning to take place over the next few months.
 - President-elect Woo greeted the board and relayed her activities since arriving on campus, including meeting with students, faculty and staff.
 - She noted the time-sensitive nature of our need to assess our resources and determine how those resources can be optimized.
 - She noted that we must recognize our “givens” and see them as assets not liabilities. Our givens are 1) being a women’s college, 2) being located in Central Virginia and 3) being a small college. She stated there are several ways to leverage these givens to create opportunity.
 - She will be working with a small, but intensive group to develop a proposed immediate action plan.
 - She looks forward to working with the board and all the College stakeholders to rethink how Sweet Briar can become internationally known for excellence in higher education.
- The board attended a reception at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts at its site on College-owned property across U.S. 29 from the main campus. The reception provided an opportunity for the board members of each organization to meet each other and gave the Sweet Briar board an opportunity to see the VCCA site. The VCCA has leased the property from the College for more than 25 years.
- Following tradition, the board hosted the graduating class for a reception and dinner.
- Friday evening, the current board hosted 13 former members of the board of directors for a reception and dinner. The next morning, the group met in a plenary session to hear remarks from board chair Teresa Pike Tomlinson, President-elect Woo and President Stone. The president reviewed progress on the administrative plan of work for the year. Betsy Muhlenfeld, president emerita, was a part of the group.
- The board was informed that the College’s tennis courts are now being renovated through designated gifts from alumnae and other donors. Because the courts had become unusable, the tennis team is currently using the courts at a local public school. The new courts will be ready in time for summer tennis camps.
- The board reviewed campus survey results showing positive student satisfaction in almost all areas.
- Dean Pam DeWeese informed the board that the committee for the accrediting association reviewing the College’s substantive change petition to authorize the reinstatement of the computer science program has recommended approval. Final approval is expected at the June meeting of the association.
- Dean DeWeese reported that faculty searches are almost complete. All positions are replacement positions except for environmental science and computer science, both new initiatives. A grant has been received for the environmental science position.
- Two candidates were presented as proposed new members of the board of directors. They will be considered for election at the next meeting.

- The Governance Committee, having been charged with responsibility to consider whether to recommend changes in the bylaws related to faculty membership on the board, recommended that no change be made in the current bylaws. The bylaws neither prohibit nor mandate faculty representation. Whether faculty members can serve as directors would be a matter for the usual nominating and election process. The recommendation by the Governance Committee to make no changes in the bylaws was approved.
- Mary Pope Hutson, vice president for alumnae relations and development, reported on record-setting giving levels during the Month of Giving in March. She also described the recently launched Phillip C. Stone Legacy Challenge, which asks alumnae to respond to a pool challenge formed by gifts from major donors. At this point, gifts and pledges payable by June 30 approach \$12 million. She noted that donations for the year are clearly a record.
- Vice president for finance and treasurer Tim Klocko reviewed operating reports and indicated that the College is on course to finish the fiscal year on June 30 with expenses approximately 10% under budget.
- Mr. Klocko reviewed the parameters for the FY 2018 budget, which will be presented to the board in a few weeks. He anticipates a relatively flat expense budget compared to the current year.
- The administration reported that it has consulted two banks about a possible line of credit. More information will be provided at a future meeting.
- Upon the recommendation of the president, endorsed by the Finance Committee, the board authorized the sale of a College-owned apartment in Paris. The apartment, once used by the resident directors of the Junior Year in France program (now JYF in Paris), has not been occupied on a regular basis for about 10 years.
- Resolutions of respect and commendation were approved for two faculty members. Dr. James L. Alouf, professor of education emeritus, was recognized for his service to Sweet Briar, especially his return to the College from retirement in 2015 to help at a critical time. Dr. Linda S. Fink was recognized for her leadership as chair of the Faculty Executive Committee for the past two years, and for being awarded the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science Education by the Virginia Museum of Natural History.
- Upon the unanimous approval of the faculty Personnel Committee, the endorsement of the academic dean and the recommendation of the president, the board awarded tenure to Dr. Bethany M. Brinkman, assistant professor of engineering.
- Saturday, following the board meetings, members of the campus and broader communities joined the board at a festival to celebrate President Stone's leadership over the past two years. Skiffle USA's lively music, good food from area food trucks and a festive atmosphere in the field house made for a great party in spite of the rain outside. The president was presented with resolutions of respect and appreciation from the board, written by well-known faculty authors Carrie and John Gregory Brown. Del. Ben Cline, Sweet Briar's local representative, read a joint house resolution he introduced during the last General Assembly session commending President Stone's leadership in higher education.