



CONCORDIA SEMINARY
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
NOVEMBER 3-4, 2022

Thursday, November 3, 2022

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, Dr. Michael Staub, Mr. Mark Stern.

Board Members Absent: Rev. Dr. John Wille.

Staff Present: President Thomas Egger, Provost Ronald Mudge, Mr. Michael Louis, Mr. Chad Cattoor, Associate Provost Benjamin Haupt.

Guest Present: Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan.

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

Devotion. Mr. Stern led the meeting in the Morning Suffrages and the singing of Hymn 21.

Minutes and Agenda. Chairman Mons reviewed the agenda, with modification to defer discussion of the Board Manual and move up discussion of the Board online portal.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to approve the minutes from the August 11-12, 2022 meeting as presented; the motion [22-50] was seconded and carried.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to adopt the agenda as presented; the motion [22-51] was seconded and carried.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded and carried. This approved the following action items:

[22-52]: Approval of the Conflict of Interest Statement for Board Members

[22-53]: Approval of Authorized Account Signers

[22-54]: Direction to Prepare Assessment of Success of 2018-2020 Strategic Plan

Mr. Cattoor distributed copies of the conflict of interest policy acknowledgment and each Board member signed a copy.

Recruitment and Enrollment. Rev. Keseman directed the board to the written recruitment and enrollment report. Dr. Haupt reported that the Seminary is regularly praying that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up workers for His Kingdom, and we have requested prayers from the whole church to this end. Our goal was to have 55 MDiv applications in hand by October 31; it is believed that applications received as of this date are approximately predictive of ultimate enrollment. We received 75 applications by that date this year, so we are optimistic for a larger incoming class next year. Discussion followed.

Faculty Presentation. Dr. Bruce Schuchard, Chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology, joined the meeting. He discussed his recent book *The Word from the Beginning: The Person and Work of Jesus in the Gospel of John*, and the important role of Biblical languages for students at the Seminary. Dr. Schuchard noted the need to strengthen Biblical language learning, and to deliver it as early as possible in the curriculum, with introductory Hebrew in the first year. The languages also need to be incorporated throughout the curriculum, with follow-up throughout. The Board thanked Dr. Schuchard for his thoughtful presentation; Dr. Schuchard was excused from the meeting.

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

The Board reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

President's Report. President Egger directed the Board to his written report. He informed the Board of continuing efforts to improve the curriculum in the areas of Biblical languages and church history, proposed to be implemented in the fall of 2024. He continues to make the case to the church for the value of residential seminary formation. Discussion continued

Provost's Report. Dr. Mudge directed the Board to his written report. He and Dr. Egger have increased the Seminary's communication with the Office of International Mission to coordinate international efforts and increased opportunities. The next accreditation visit will be next spring from the HLC, and we are on track with that process. He summarized efforts to assist students with academic success and retention. He reported that Drs. Nielsen, Schumacher, and Marrs are anticipated to retire within the next year. Faculty and staff searches are ongoing. It was noted that the Academic Committee has requested that a faculty workload study be completed in connection with a staffing plan. Discussion continued.

Academic Committee. On behalf of the Academic Committee, Dr. Edmon moved that Professor Philip W. Penhallegon be moved to a continuing-level appointment effective July 1, 2023; after discussion, the motion [22-55] carried.

Board Portal Presentation. Rev. Brondos led the board in a review of the online Board portal.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 1 p.m. Dr. Mudge was not present for the afternoon session.

Governance and Audit Committee. On behalf of the Governance and Audit Committee, Vice Chairman Arnold moved that the Board adopt the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, as appended to the Board packet, as a summary of its key working priorities, and of the key priorities for the Seminary administration, for the next five years. Following discussion, the motion [22-56] carried.

By earlier action at this meeting, the Board has directed the administration to conduct a retrospective assessment of the previous strategic plan, what was achieved, and what was not achieved. It was noted that we need to allocate different aspects of the new plan among the board committees, and conduct ongoing assessments of plan progress throughout its duration. Discussion followed.

Finance Committee. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Paradis moved approval of the schedule of Tuition and Fees for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. After extensive discussion, Dr. Edmon moved the previous question, which carried. The main motion [22-57] carried.

Governance and Audit Committee, continued. On behalf of the Governance and Audit Committee, Vice Chairman Arnold moved that the Board approve the recommendation of the Joint Governance & Audit and Finance Committees to accept and issue the June 30, 2022 audited financial statements. The joint committees met on October 19 to review the statements with the auditors. Following discussion, the motion [22-58] carried. Chairman Mons expressed the sincere thanks of the Board to Mr. Michael Louis and Mr. Chad Cattoor and their teams for diligent work in preparing the financial statements, resulting in a smooth audit process and clean audit report.

On behalf of the Governance and Audit Committee, Vice Chairman Arnold moved that the Board approve the recommendation of the Governance & Audit Committee and instruct the administration to utilize Willis Towers Watson for the Seminary's insurance program, effective with the next renewal. It was noted that this issue arose following the disruption of the prior CUS/Seminary group insurance plan due to late and unanticipated withdrawal from that program by several CUS schools, which caused a cost spike last year. Following discussion, the motion [22-59] carried.

Finance Committee, continued. Mr. Cattoor led a brief review of the most recent quarterly financial statements.

Academic Committee, continued. Dr. Edmon reported the need to assess admissions to the MDiv program of holders of non-accredited undergraduate degrees and/or persons without a baccalaureate degree. This may become an issue if, for example, our CUS institutions were to lose accreditation due to cultural issues, and/or with respect to Luther Classical College graduates. Staff have reported that admitting such men to the MDiv program would not cause an issue for our own accreditation, provided that the Seminary maintains its own appropriate process to ensure quality control. The Association of Theological Schools used to limit the number of such students to not more than 10% of the class. The 10% cap no longer applies provided that appropriate assessments are used. The Seminary conducts a number of assessments, including the Graduate Records Exam, for this purpose.

Dr. Edmon also reported that the committee discussed, but did not advance at this time, potential convention overtures. A faculty workload study has been added to the future administrative docket. The committee is also discussing revisions to the faculty manual to provide for greater Board oversight for adjunct faculty. The committee also reviewed the current policy regarding honorary degrees and how recipients are selected and approved; discussion followed.

Mr. Stern led a discussion of the proposed joint overture “To Affirm Appropriate Standards for the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program” that has been prepared as directed by 2019 Convention Res. 6-03A. In light of prior convention actions and the purpose of the SMP, the overture recommends no changes to the timing of ordination and not adding Biblical languages to the curriculum.

The Board recessed at 2:27.

The Board reconvened at 2:45 p.m. Dr. Ronald Mudge and Mrs. Vicki Biggs joined this session.

Development Report. Mrs. Biggs updated the board on campaign planning and the creation of a preliminary case statement, in light of the board’s adoption of the new strategic plan. The campaign will be named, and a logo created, in preparation for a campaign readiness study.

Dr. Edmon moved to enter executive session with staff present; the motion was seconded and carried.

The Board entered executive session at 2:59 p.m.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION, including adoption of Action Items 22-60 through 22-61]

The Board exited executive session at 5 p.m.

Mr. Hegland moved to recess; the motion was seconded and carried, and the Board stood in recess at 5 p.m.

Friday, November 4, 2022

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, Dr. Michael Staub, Rev. Joel Brondos.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Mark Stern, Rev. Dr. John Wille.

Concordia Theological Seminary Board Members present: Rev. William Cwirla, Mr. David Daniels, Rev. Dr. Korey Maas, Mr. Mark Meehl, Rev. Dr. Scott Murray, Rev. Roger Paavola, Mr. John Powers, Dr. Bradd Stucky, Dr. Beverly Yahnke, Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger, Mrs. Marchetta Beasely, Mr. Tim Sheldon.

Concordia Theological Seminary Board Members Absent: None.

Concordia Seminary Staff Present: President Thomas Egger, Provost Ronald Mudge, Mr. Michael Louis, Mr. Chad Cattoor, and Associate Provost Benjamin Haupt.

Concordia Theological Seminary Staff Present: President Lawrence R. Rast, Jr., Mr. Lance Hoffman, Mrs. Catherine M. (Carrie) O'Donnell.

Guests Present: Rev. Dr. James Baneck, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan.

Rev. W. Max Mons called the meeting to order at 8 a.m

Devotion. Rev. W. Max Mons opened the meeting with Morning Prayer and a devotion from the Revelation of St. John chapter 7.

State of the Seminaries. Dr. Egger presented an update on the state of Concordia Seminary. The academic theme for the year is “Sharing the Gospel, Sharing our Lives” based on 1 Thessalonians 2:8. He reported that a new Strategic Plan was adopted by the CSL Board of Regents the previous day. This plan focuses on increasing study of the Holy Scriptures through further curriculum revision, centrality of worship throughout the Seminary, forming a heart for mission, faculty development, making the case for residential pastoral formation, and increasing enrollment. CSL is also highly involved in the education of international Lutheran pastors and scholars. We are the singing, serving, and celebrating church and we should embrace it as the seminaries of the LCMS. Discussion followed.

Dr. Rast presented an update on the state of Concordia Theological Seminary. He noted that singing is central to the life of the church. The scriptural focus for the year is from Hebrews 13. We need to develop future faculty as both seminaries’ faculties are aging. CTS is working on helping faculty mentor students as the seminary lives in both the academic world and the world of spiritual care. Admissions are up this year at CTS and a continuing focus for improvement. CTS has actively pursued international collaboration, which has proved mutually beneficial to CTS and its international partners. CTS has finished a successful fundraising campaign, raising \$82.5 million and allowing CTS to retire its debt. Discussion followed.

The Boards recessed for Chapel at 9:25, and reconvened at 10:30. Dr. David Peter joined the meeting as a guest presenter.

Dr. David Peter gave a presentation regarding the implementation of the \$1 million Lily Foundation Pathways for Tomorrow Phase 2 Grant. Dr. Peter serves as the grant coordinator for CSL in collaboration with Mrs. Carrie O'Donnell of CTS. The title of the grant is “Partnership for Pastoral Formation: Setting Our Course for Future Church Leadership”. The grant period ends in 2026. The goals of the grant are increasing pastoral enrollment, faculty recruitment, and post-seminary pastoral development opportunities. Development of joint seminary messaging and efforts to address these goals are underway. Discussion followed.

Dr. James Baneck provided a report from the Pastoral Formation Committee (PFC, consisting of the two seminary presidents, Synod Chief Mission Officer Rev. Kevin Robson, and Dr. Baneck as an advisory member), which operates pursuant to Bylaw 3.10.4. The PFC is responsible for recommending any new routes to ministry and reviewing current routes. It also works on assignments from Synod convention resolutions. The PFC convened a summit on October 17-18, and Dr. Baneck's report is a synthesis of the outcomes from the summit. Topics included recruiting urgency (Set Apart to Serve), routes circumventing the seminaries (including Unite Leadership Collective, Kairos University, Michigan School of Missional Formation, Concordia University of Irvine Center for Church Leadership and Accelerated Ministry Degree), the importance of residential education, and convention reports (specifically 2019 Convention 6-02/6-03A assignment). The general conclusions of the summit were that each route to ordination should be used for its originally intended purpose only, the seminaries are charged with the vocation of certification for the Office of the Holy Ministry, and residential education is to be the primary method to form pastors for general service. For Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP), no changes are recommended to the current program, although SMP students should be encouraged to seek the M. Div. or complete Alternate Route certification wherever appropriate, and congregations should be supported and encouraged to that end as well. Brief discussion followed.

The Boards recessed for lunch at 12 p.m., and reconvened at 1 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:46 p.m. Dr. Haupt was not present for the afternoon session.

Board Discussion: Dr. Egger and Dr. Rast led a discussion regarding the future and shape of theological education.

The first question discussed was: "Are our current models of pastoral and deaconess formation relevant and viable for the next fifteen years?" The consensus was yes, but there is need for continual objective assessment and improvement, and preparation for suffering. Key points are the importance of mutual conversation and consolation between the brethren, worship, and prayer. We need to have a fully formed and deep pastors, this is always relevant.

The second question discussed was: "Should our seminaries offer a fully online M. Div. program for general (regular/full) pastoral rostering?" The consensus was no. Ministry is done in person, so education should be done in person. Sacrifice is required for the ministry and learning as a human requires in person education and interaction. Character is developed and formed in interpersonal conversation and consolation, which is a vital part of pastoral formation. Online education does have its uses, such as continuing education and auditing of classes.

Joint Resolution on SMP: A draft resolution was considered in fulfillment of the direction by 2019 Synod Convention resolution 6-03A. Discussion ensued. It was decided that the current resolution was not sufficient and that the Joint Seminary Advisory Committee would construct a revised resolution addressing the specific two questions for the January CTS Board Meeting and February CSL Board Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS, NOVEMBER 3-4, 2022

Other resolutions can be circulated between the two boards ahead of their winter board meetings.

The 2023 joint meeting will be held in Fort Wayne on November 9-10, 2023.

Mr. Hegland moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded and carried, and the Board adjourned at 2:40 p.m. with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark O. Stern, Board Secretary (Dr. Paul Edmon, Secretary pro tempore for November 4, 2022)