



CONCORDIA SEMINARY  
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI  
AUGUST 10-11, 2023

Thursday, August 10, 2023

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

**Board Members Absent:** Rev. Bruce Keseman, 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 7:56 a.m.*

**Devotion.** Dr. Hagan led the meeting in Morning Prayer and a devotion from 1 Kings 19:9-18.

### Minutes and Agenda.

MOTION: Dr. Staub moved to approve the minutes from the May 2023 meeting as corrected; the motion [23-33] was seconded and carried.

MOTION: Dr. Edmon moved to adopt the updated agenda as presented. The motion [23-34] was seconded and carried.

**President's Report.** President Egger directed the Board to his written report, and outlined current activities. He noted the 10-year reaffirmation of the Seminary's Higher Learning Commission accreditation, and thanked Dr. Borcharding and Dr. Mudge and their teams for work toward that accomplishment. The Association of Theological Schools accreditation visit will be this fall. There has been very positive reception of the Seminary's Campus Master Plan rollout. President Egger stated that the LCMS Convention was quite positive. He noted that in order to roll out curricular updates for Fall 2024, they will need to be finalized by the end of this year. He is also working on his goals for the next academic year.

**Board and Faculty Meeting Overview.** There will be a board/faculty discussion session later today, opening with a presentation from Secretary of Synod Rev. Dr. John W. Sias covering Synod bylaws as they pertain to governance of the Seminary. The board and faculty members will then meet for a luncheon and table discussions. Discussion followed regarding the agenda and goals for the discussions.

*The Board recessed for Chapel at 9:25 a.m., followed by discussion with Dr. Sias and faculty members regarding Bylaw provisions, a luncheon with the faculty members, and discussion.*

*The Board reconvened at 2:30 p.m.*

**Board and Faculty Meeting Recap.** Discussion following regarding Board members' observations from the Board/faculty discussions and the requirements of Bylaw 3.10.5.7.3(a).

**Provost.** Dr. Mudge reported that he is wrapping up the self-study report for the Association of Theological Schools accreditation. There will be a luncheon on November 1 with the accreditation team. New faculty for the fall include Rev. Dr. Adam Hensley (Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology), Rev. Dr. Stephen Pietsch (Associate Professor of Practical Theology), and Rev. Joel Fritsche (Assistant Professor of Exegetical Theology). New staff include Rev. Paul Flo as Assistant to the Director of the Center for Hispanic Studies and Dr. Kevin Armbrust as director of the Graduate School. Dr. Mudge also discussed further staffing initiatives for future faculty development.

**Recruitment and Enrollment.** Dr. Haupt reported that we have 55 incoming M.Div. students for this coming fall. He also reported that attendance for the *Vocatio* summer event for students contemplating enrolling at the Seminary has substantially increased, to 68 students this year. He thanked Rev. Micah Glenn for his efforts in connection with *Vocatio*.

**Advancement Report.** Mrs. Vicki Biggs joined the meeting, and directed the Board to her written report. She also reported that key donor interviews will begin next week in preparation for our campaign readiness study. Her department is actively looking for qualified gift officers to ensure that advancement is fully staffed. For the second convention in a row, the seminaries partnered on a booth, which was a great success. A number of videos were recorded at the convention with guests interviewed promoting seminary education. The Campus Master Plan rollout has also been extremely positive. Mrs. Biggs was excused from the meeting.

**Finance Committee.** Mr. Cattoor presented the June 30 year end financials. The year was essentially break-even (slightly positive) on an operational basis.

*Dr. Edmon moved that the Board enter executive session with President Egger and guest present; the motion was seconded and carried.*

*The Board entered executive session at 4:12 p.m.*

[EXECUTIVE SESSION]

*The Board exited executive session at 4:40 p.m.*

*The Board stood in recess at 4:40 p.m.*

**Friday, August 11, 2023**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Rev. Bruce Keseman, 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. Hegland led the meeting in Morning Prayer and a devotion

**SMP Discussion.** Dr. Mudge directed the Board to his written report summarizing the history of the SMP program and some survey data that have been gathered. He noted the vagueness of some of the Synod authorizing resolutions. Discussion followed. Those participating in the program report general satisfaction with it. It was noted that 68% of graduates serve in suburban settings and 52% are serving as full-time pastors with salary and benefits. The PFC will use this information as it reviews appropriate guidelines for the program. It was suggested that input be obtained from circuit visitors in circuits where SMP pastors serve.

**Synod Convention Update.** Chairman Mons reported that two new members were elected to the Board at the recently concluded Synod convention. Mr. Matthew Kennitzer is a member at Our Redeemer, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz is pastor at Trinity, Denver, CO. Chairman Mons also reviewed adopted resolutions that address Seminary issues, including Res. 2-04A, 6-02A, and 6-03A. He noted that the convention went very well for the seminaries, and the joint booth was a great success. Discussion followed. Dr. Edmon noted the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Walkout, as recognized by the convention, and inquired whether some sort of permanent plaque should be placed to commemorate the events.

**Board Staffing and Open Positions.** Chairman Mons noted that we have one open board-appointed position. It was agreed that discussion on this point be deferred until the November board meeting when new elected members will have been seated.

**AALC On Line Seminary.** Issues have arisen with LCMS laymen attending the non-accredited online AALC seminary and seeking admission to the LCMS roster. It was agreed to prepare a Board resolution responding to this issue for consideration this afternoon.

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

*The Board reconvened at 10:30 a.m.*

**ATS Accreditation Discussion.** Dr. Mudge led a discussion of the upcoming Association of Theological Schools accreditation process, including the self-study report that is being prepared as part of that process. The Board welcomed Dr. Alan Borcharding, our accreditation specialist who is coordinating preparation of the self-study report, to the meeting. Discussion followed. It was noted that a special meeting will need to be held to consider the self-study report. Dr. Borcharding was excused from the meeting.

**Joint Board Meeting Planning.** The Board welcomed Synod Executive Director of Pastoral Education Rev. Dr. James Baneck and Synod Chief Mission Officer Rev. Kevin Robson to the meeting for this portion of the discussion. Chairman Mons led a discussion regarding topics and structure for the upcoming November joint seminary boards meeting.

*The Board recessed for lunch at 11:35 a.m.*

*The Board reconvened at 1 p.m. Dr. Hagan was not present for this session.*

**Seminary Publications.** The Board welcomed Dr. Kevin Golden to the meeting to discuss his new role as Dean of Theological Research and Publication. He oversees the Seminary Press, *Concordia Journal*, continuing education publications, symposia, and online resources. He also encourages and works with faculty on their own research and publications. It was noted that defining the mission and intended audience of each publication, and what authority it is intended to convey (“free conference,” doctrinal authority, or something else), would be helpful. Discussion followed. The Board thanked Dr. Golden and he was excused from the meeting.

**Board Governance.** Chairman Mons announced that there will be a special meeting to review and receive the accreditation self-study draft for the Association of Theological Schools, on August 18 at 4 p.m. via videoconference.

*A motion that the Board enter executive session with staff present; the motion was seconded and carried.*

*The Board entered executive session at 1:40 p.m.*

[EXECUTIVE SESSION, including adoption of Action Item 23-35]

*The Board exited executive session at 1:52 p.m.*

Chairman Mons led a general discussion on the publication “Recommended Governance Practices” from BoardSource. It was noted that the Board already follows all of the practices that are applicable to our context.

**Campus Master Plan.** Mr. Michael Louis reported on the status of the Campus Master Plan. Washington University is completing its environmental due diligence on the property; various contingencies are now being worked through. Overall, the rollout has been going very smoothly. The Board thanked Mr. Louis for his presentation and hard work toward this goal.

*A motion that the Board enter executive session was seconded and carried.*

*The Board entered executive session at 3:04 p.m.*

[EXECUTIVE SESSION, including adoption of Action Items 23-36 and 23-37]

*The Board exited executive session at 3:52 p.m. As a result of executive session action, the following tentative meeting dates have been established for the Board for 2024-2025:*

*2024: February 8-9, May 16-17, August 1-2, November 7-8 (Joint Meeting St. Louis)*

*2025: February 6-7, May 15-16, July 31-August 1, November 6-7 (Joint Meeting Fort Wayne)*

Mr. Hegland moved that the Board shall adjourn; the motion was seconded and carried, and the Board adjourned with prayer at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark O. Stern, Board Secretary