

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT LIFE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME AARSL 37**

**September 16, 2021**

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life of the Board of Trustees was held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA, and via video conference, at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 16, 2021.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Oldsey, Vice Chair Wagman, Brown, Davis, Hoffman, Ortega, Paterno, Pope, and Rowland. Also attending were President Barron (*Ex Officio*), Faculty Representative Blockett, Student Representative Rodriguez, Constituent Representative Sturges, and Faculty Representative Szczygiel. Also present were Allen, Dunham, Gaudelius, Guadagnino, Harvey, Jones, Sims, and Weiss.

Chair Oldsey called the meeting to order at 2:46 p.m. and welcomed new committee members Student Trustee Janiyah Davis; Faculty Trustee Nicholas Rowland; Chair-Elect, University Faculty Senate Kimberly Blockett; Immediate Past Chair, University Staff Advisory Council Nicole Sturges; President, WCSGA Mona Hill; and Vice President, UPUA Najee Rodriguez.

Chair Oldsey called for a motion for the Committee to approve the *Minutes* of the May 6, 2021 committee meeting. The motion to approve came from Trustee Paterno, and Trustee Rowland then seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Oldsey recognized Vice Chair Wagman and the committee members for their work to revise the committee's overall goals and meeting discussion topics for the academic year 2021-2022. Areas of overarching focus include research excellence, student engagement and student success, faculty productivity and faculty support, and teaching and learning outcomes. Chair Oldsey also emphasized the importance of increasing the dialogue between AARSL and various student and faculty groups throughout the year. Chair Oldsey called for a motion for the Committee to approve the 2021-2022 Committee Goals and major agenda topics for 2021/2022. A motion to approve came from Trustee Pope, and Trustee Wagman then seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Oldsey introduced Dr. Lora Weiss, senior vice president of Research, for a presentation on Strategies for Strengthening and Expanding the Research Enterprise at Penn State. Weiss shared that research expenditures for FY2020 exceeded one billion dollars for the first time, and they are waiting for the FY2021 expenditures to be released soon. Weiss stated that Penn State's research engagement is aligned with national research priorities which include: fundamental research, artificial intelligence, quantum, advanced manufacturing, 5G, climate science, national security, health & wellness, biotechnology, STEM racial equity, and major research facilities. Weiss addressed four areas related to strengthening and expanding the Research Enterprise at Penn State: crucial strategic steps needed in the future to continue Penn State's growth in research and development; maximizing our ability to monetize the Research Enterprise and steps to do more; supporting faculty in areas impacting research initiatives; and efficiencies related to overhead costs and what overhead costs support. Weiss summarized the value of research by stating that research (1) drives progress in the Commonwealth, nation and world; (2) Universities have become the country's innovation centers; (3) attracts leading faculty: innovators, knowledge discovery, and creativity; (4) attracts students; provides experiences for students that enable career successes; (5) attracts industry: helping companies anticipate and solve their challenges; (6) crucial for standing amount AAU, Big Ten, and other world-class institutions, and (7) standing is a major factor in student applications, faculty recruitment, and retention.

Committee discussion and conversation focused on research at the Commonwealth campuses, graduate training programs, engaging emeritus faculty, investments in equipment and infrastructure to drive growth,

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stevens  
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Office of the Board of Trustees