

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AASL 31**

February 20, 2020

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Room 208 of the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA, at 11:00 a.m. on February 20, 2020.

The following committee members were present: Chair David Han, President Eric Barron, and Trustees Bryan Culler, Valerie Detwiler, Chris Hoffman, Bill Oldsey, Jay Paterno, Matt Schuyler, Laurie Stanell, and Steve Wagman. Also joining the meeting was Emerita Trustee Anne Riley.

The following staff members were present: Suzanne Adair, Associate Vice President for Affirmative Action; Michael Bérubé, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature; Nick Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost; Brad Kalbaugh, Research and Development, Applied Research Lab; Rob Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education; Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs; Gary Thomas, Nationally Certified Sign Language Interpreter; Marcus Whitehurst, Vice Provost for Educational Equity; Leah Zimmerman, Executive Director of Student Disability Resources; and Marissa Shamrock, President of the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) Claire Kelling; Amy Mook, Junior, Genetics and Developmental Biology; World Campus Student Association (WCSA) President Sean Walsh; and Douglas Watford, Junior in Forensic Science and Horticulture were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Han at 11:09 a.m. *Minutes* of the November 14, 2019 meeting of the committee were approved. No business items were recommended.

Chair Han welcomed those in attendance and opened by mentioning a report on the status of African American professors at University Park, titled *More Rivers to Cross*. Chair Han suggested the report be a topic for the Committee's May agenda.

Vice Provost Marcus Whitehurst provided an update on diversity and inclusions efforts at the University and the progress Penn State is making toward its goals in these efforts.

Executive Director Leah Zimmerman shared information about the Office of Student Disability Resources and its efforts to provide accommodations and resources for students with disabilities. Associate Vice President Suzanne Adair provided updates on the Affirmative Action Office's efforts related to employee's with disabilities and requests for reasonable accommodations.

Brad Kalbaugh spoke about his hearing impairment and accommodations he needs as an employee such as a sign language interpreter. Michael Bérubé spoke from a faculty perspective about his work in disability studies and the Disability Studies minor. Amy Mook, a junior, spoke about her mobility disability and the accommodations she requires in order to attend classes on campus. Douglas Watford, a junior, spoke about the concussion he suffered and how that has affected his need for accommodations. The floor was then opened to questions and discussion.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marissa D. Shamrock
Executive Assistant
Office of the Vice President for Administration