

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME AASL 32**

**July 16, 2020**

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

The following members were present: Chair David Han, Vice Chair Alice Pope, Katherine Allen (Office of General Counsel), President Eric Barron, Bryan Culler, Mark Dambly, Valerie Detwiler, Chris Hoffman, Provost Nicholas Jones, Zachary McKay (Student Representative), Bill Oldsey, Vice President and Dean Robert Pangborn, Jay Paterno, Anne Riley (Emerita Trustee), Vice President of Student Affairs Damon Sims, Laurie Stanell, Steve Wagman, Sean Walsh (Student Representative), and Mary Beth Williams (Faculty Representative).

A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Han at 11:30 a.m. Minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting of the committee were unanimously approved.

Chair Han welcomed those in attendance. He introduced Vice Provost Marcus Whitehurst, who shared some of the challenges students faced with remote learning, setting the stage for the panel discussion on the topic -The Disproportionate Effect that COVID-19 has had on Under-represented Populations at Penn State.

Yvonne Gaudelius, Associate Vice President and Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, along with Renata Engel, Vice Provost for Online Education, presented initial high-level data findings from an ad hoc working group that was charged with assessing the outcomes of the shift to remote learning and whether or not these outcomes had a disproportionate impact on different populations of students.

Gabrielle Foreman, Professor of English, African American Studies, and History and the founding faculty director of the Colored Conventions Project indicated that she and her colleagues have been focused on fostering a community of care, performing daily check-ins, drive-by graduations, food deliveries and other acts of community to support each other during these challenging times. Shana Clarke, Academic Advisor and Coordinator of Multicultural Initiatives in the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) said she and her colleagues have seen a disparate impact, with some students struggling with lack of access to technology, internet service and a productive learning environment. Nyla Holland, Lisbeth Brito, and Quiana Jackson each shared their student perspective and personal experiences during the remote learning period.

The floor was then opened to questions and discussion.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stevens  
Administrative Coordinator  
Office of the Board of Trustees