THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COMMITTEE ON OUTREACH, DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME ODCR 34

February 18, 2021

A meeting of the Committee on Outreach, Development, and Community Relations (ODCR) was held via Zoom, at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021.

The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Barb Doran, Vice Chair Abe Amorós, Eric Barron (Ex Officio), Matthew Schuyler (Ex Officio), Lynn Dietrich, Anthony Lubrano, Jay Paterno, Stan Rapp, Laurie Stanell, and Steve Wagman. Also, present were Emeriti members David Jones and Joel Myers.

The following staff members, constituent representatives, or invitees were also present: Hibah Akbar, Barry Bram, Rich Bundy, Paul Clifford, Quinn Dietrich, Steve Dunham, Roger Egolf, Yvonne Gaudelius, Frank Guadagnino, Shannon Harvey, Randy Houston, Tracey Huston, Nick Jones, John Latini, Lawrence Lokman, Zack Moore, Alan Rieck, Richard Smith, Katie Solomon, Ouli Sow, Nicole Sturges, Heather Wilson, Amanda Wintersteen, and Michael Zeman.

Chair Doran called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Chair Doran began by noting that Public Comment did not have any participants and therefore moved on with the remainder of the agenda. Chair Doran then called for a motion for the Committee to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2020 committee meeting with notation of a name change. A motion was out forward and seconded. The committee approved unanimously.

Katie Solomon, Executive Director of THON and Senior, of the College of Liberal Arts, Criminology and Sociology reported on THON’s yearlong efforts beginning with a definition of the theme “Rise and Unify”. The theme is a nod to the challenges presented by the pandemic and a call to action for the community, supporters, alumni, and families to rise above those challenges. As part of the year-long efforts was the creation of an Action Plan refining the group focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. She noted that a report will be available at the end of each semester. Katie also reported an important success for their Capital Campaign efforts. The Capital Campaign: Dream Forward goal was surpassed and raised a little over $690,000 Other activities included: Harvest Days in October; Giving Tuesday; and an Athletics Partnership including virtual hangouts and stadium cutouts promotion ending with re-worked activities for Dancer and Family Engagement.

Tracey Huston, Vice President for Outreach, introduced Alan, Rieck, Associate Vice President and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education; Mike Zeman, Director of the Student Engagement Network; Barry Bram, Senior Director of Community Engagement for Outreach; Quinn Dietrick, Sophomore of the College of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering; and Oulimata Sow, Senior, Eberly College of Science, Science and Journalism. The overarching topic for these presenters was Remote Student Engagement During the Pandemic: Community, Organizational, Institutional Insights and Observations.

Finally, Zach Moore, Vice President for Government and Community Relations introduced John Latini, Director of Federal Relations and Amanda Wintersteen, Director of Federal Relations who reported on President Biden’s Administration and the impact on higher education and leadership changes in Pennsylvania and impact to Penn State. Specifically mentioned was impact of student loan debt changes, COVID-19 relief funding for public universities, and fortified Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy. Zach Moore ended with information regarding budget changes in Harrisburg and the impact of “free tuition, free community colleges,” and took comments regarding tax deductions and communication plans to reignite international student enrollment.

Chair Doran ended by mentioning a new report available to Trustees that will be posted on Diligent. The report lists the topics of mail and email received on behalf of the Board and the President. She then asked for a motion to adjourn. Laurie Stanell provided the motion and Abe Amorós seconded. The public meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Zeigler-Byers
Administrative Support Assistant
Office of the Board of Trustees