

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME AASL 28**

**February 21, 2019**

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in President's Hall II of the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA, at 10:30 a.m. on February 21, 2019.

The following committee members were present: Chair David Han, Mark Dambly, Dan Delligatti, and Michael Hoeschele. Vice Chair Valerie Detwiler joined the meeting by phone. Also joining the meeting was Emerita Trustee Anne Riley.

The following staff members were present: Nick Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost; Rob Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education; Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Ann Wyatt. University Staff Advisory Committee representative JeanMarie Jacob, Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) President Brianne Pragg, and University Faculty Senate representative, Beth Seymour, were present. Also invited as presenters were Marcus Whitehurst, Vice Provost for Educational Equity and members of the University staff and faculty.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Han at 10:40 a.m. *Minutes* of the November 8, 2018 meeting of the committee were approved.

Chair Han welcomed those in attendance and called on Marcus Whitehurst to introduce the topic for a generative discussion. Whitehurst opened by speaking about the history of educational equity and laid the groundwork for the discussion of "Diversity and Inclusion" at Penn State, including its relationship to the goals of the University's Strategic Plan. Joining the conversation were panelists Michael Bérubé, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature and current Chair of the University Faculty Senate; Elliott X. Bruce, a senior majoring in Psychology with a Life Science Option, double-minoring in History and African American Studies, and President of the Black Student Union; Sonia DeLuca Fernández, Associate Vice Provost in the Office of Educational Equity; Alicia C. Dowd, Professor of Education and Director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at Penn State; Keith Gilyard, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of English and African American Studies and Senior Faculty Mentor in the Office of Educational Equity; Jasmine Jackson, a senior double-majoring in Economics and African Studies, double-minoring in African American Studies and Women's studies, pursuing a certificate in Diversity Studies, President of the Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) group, and the Treasurer of the Student Minority Advisory And Recruitment Team (SMART); Peggy Lorah, the interim Assistant Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion in Student Affairs; Tomás Sanchez, a junior majoring in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Latino Studies, President of the Latino Caucus, and Director of Educational Equity for the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments; Maria Aguilar Walls, a 2017 Penn State graduate in Rehabilitation and Human Services, a second-year graduate student in the Masters of Higher Education program at Penn State, and advocate for students with disabilities at Penn State; and Denita Wright Watson, engineering and leadership development graduate program manager at Penn State Great Valley, secretary of the University Staff Advisory Council, and contributor to the University-wide Diversity Climate Study Work Group.

AASL 28-2

Topics of discussion included cultural competency; expansion of educational offerings and mandated bias training for staff and faculty; equity-minded teaching; recognition of best practices; improved communication; how individual experiences have shaped thinking about diversity and inclusion; additional support resources for students, staff and faculty; and the advancement and promotion of diversity and inclusion through partnerships and cooperative.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann M. Wyatt  
Administrative Support Coordinator  
Office of the Board of Trustees