

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME AASL 19**

**February 23, 2017**

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Room 211 of the Penn State Conference Center Hotel, University Park, PA, at 3:00 p.m. on February 23, 2017.

The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Abe Harpster, Vice Chair Allie Goldstein, Alice Pope, and Luke Metaxas.

The following staff members were present: Nick Jones, Rob Pangborn, Damon Sims, and Ann Wyatt. CCSG Vice President Shawn Lichvar and Staff Advisory Council Immediate Past Chair Jennifer Blew were also present. Trustee Emerita Anne Riley was present. Also invited as presenters were: Special Assistant to the Provost for Innovation and Education Technology Initiatives, Craig Weidemann and Lance Kennedy-Phillips, Vice Provost for Planning and Assessment. Also present were members of the Student Commission of Diversity: Steffen Blanco, Kelly Diaz, David Gaines, Helia Hosseinpour, Kayode Oduwaiye, Sis-Obed Torres, and Jorge Zurita-Coronado. UPUA Vice President, Katie Jordan, was invited to serve as the moderator for the student panel discussion on diversity and inclusion.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harpster at 3:00 p.m. *Minutes* of the November 3, 2016 meeting of the Committee were approved.

The Committee reviewed a proposed administrative appointment and unanimously approved to recommend the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves President Eric J. Barron's appointment of Dr. Hari Osofsky to the position of Dean of Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs effective July 1, 2017.

Chair Harpster called on Shawn Lichvar, who reported on student government events and initiatives, including the student fee boards; support of the University commitment to the protection of undocumented students; establishing a smoke-free University; LionPATH; Capital Day; the Diversity Summit; and parking programs. Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs, spoke about the student fee process and thanked the student governments for their good work on this initiative. Damon then addressed the recent death of student Timothy Piazza at the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. In addition to cooperating with the State College Police Department in its criminal investigation, the University is working with the Interfraternity Council to provide for the safety and welfare of all students. Executive Vice President and Provost, Nick Jones, provided updates on the implementation of Strategic Plan themes, LionPATH, and Learning Assessment updates. Rob Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education, updated the Committee on the annual enrollment census and applications for fall 2017

University Park Undergraduate Association Vice President, Katie Jordan, served as the moderator for a panel discussion between Trustees and members of the Student Diversity Commission. Students expressed a need for staff and faculty to become more responsive to diversity in the classroom; addressed the need for additional investment in the Robeson Cultural Center; and encouraged Trustees to provide for the education and actions that are required to make the University a more accepting, accommodating environment.

Lance Kennedy-Phillips provided an update on Penn State's Assessment Process, including data for assessment plan submissions to-date.

Finally, Rob Pangborn and Craig Weidemann shared a report on the Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee's themes, and the key strategies and goals for the theme of Transforming Education.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Following the public session, an executive session of the Committee was required for a privileged legal update.

Respectfully submitted,

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