

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AASL 24**

February 22, 2018

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in room 108 of the Penn State Conference Center Hotel, University Park, PA, at 8:30 a.m. on February 22, 2018.

The following committee members were present: Chair Bill Oldsey, Vice Chair Alice Pope, Michael Hoeschele, and Chris Hoffman. President Eric Barron attended as an ex-officio member of the committee. Faculty Senate Chair-Elect, Michael Berube, was present. Trustee Emerita Ann Riley was present. Nick Jones, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs, were also present. Also invited as a presenter was Kathleen Bieschke, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Oldsey at 8:30 a.m. *Minutes* of the November 9, 2017 meeting of the committee were approved.

Chair Oldsey called on Nick Jones for his report. He provided an update on administrative searches, including the appointment of Laurie Badzek, professor of nursing and director of the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) as the Dean for Penn State's College of Nursing effective July 1, 2018. Dean searches for the Colleges of the Liberal Arts and Health and Human Development are also under way. He shared information about the 2018 admissions cycle; financial aid; LionPath; and Transforming Education expansions and guiding principles. Finally, he announced that the hearing examiner appointed by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB) has directed an election among certain graduate students of the University to unionize. Regina Vasilatos-Younken, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School; President Barron; Vice President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), Brianne Pragg; and GPSA President, Matt Krott, also shared their perspectives on unionization.

Damon Sims reported on Counseling and Psychological Services; recent Compliance Office hires and the continued search for a Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life; immunizations, including state mandates and compliance, and news of a recent mumps outbreak; the success of 2018 THON; and efforts to engage in collective conversations with other institutions to address issues associated with Greek Life.

Next, Brianne Pragg provided a report on student government initiatives, including concerns expressed by all three government associations about underfunding and understaffing of the Title IX office, citing a delay in case resolutions. The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) is promoting the University-wide Student Athletes Graduating and Excelling (SAGE) program, which was piloted by Penn State Fayette. Supported by the University Faculty Senate and the Commonwealth Athletic Department, student athletes enrolled in this program can also look forward to receiving 3 credits for their sport participation, rather than two, an increase that would fulfill their General Education Health & Physical Activities degree requirement. CCSG continues to be active in campus meetings with district legislators, local officials and community leaders. Finally, CCSG is pursuing data analysis of classroom use at all campuses, and continues to evaluate issues surrounding Common Hour time.

The University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) has worked with Student Affairs to successfully change the Responsible Action Protocol related to underage drinking, and is preparing for its annual Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention week in April. The “YouAreWelcomeHere” inclusivity program, collaboratively developed with Global Programs, and the Borough of State College, will launch this spring and will highlight the experiences of six international students.

GPSA is addressing the possible need for assistantship providers to cover the cost of student fees for graduate employees, as opposed to charging the students an extra fee. A five-year rollout of the graduate student fee has been proposed, beginning in 2017-2018 until the full amount is achieved in the 2021-2022 academic year. Finally, while GPSA does not have a stance on the topic of graduate employee unionization, they do support graduate employees’ rights to choose for themselves whether they would like form a recognized union through a free and fair election, and urges the administration not to appeal the PLRB's decision.

The Committee is assigned oversight for various elements of the University's Risk Management Plan. To speak about University efforts to address student off-campus supervision and safety, Damon Sims introduced Natasha Soule, Global Travel Safety Manager, representing Global Penn State; Darcy Rameker, Director of Student Activities, representing the Travel Safety Network; and Anna Barone, Director of Student and Family Services, representing the Student Travel Registry. Their presentation included information about travel policies, health and safety, and global safety resources.

Finally, as a prelude to the Committee’s generative discussion on Fixed Term, Adjunct, and Part-time Faculty at Penn State, Kathy Bieschke provided a data-rich report on faculty demographics and composition.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

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