

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AASL 26**

July 19, 2018

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in room 245 of the Gaige Building at Penn State Berks, Reading, PA, at 8:30 a.m. on July 19, 2018.

The following committee members were present: Chair Bill Oldsey, Vice Chair Alice Pope, Valerie Detwiler, Michael Hoeschele, and Chris Hoffman. President Eric Barron attended as an ex-officio member of the committee.

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. Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) President Brianne Pragg and University Faculty Senate representative, Beth Seymour, were present. Also invited as presenters were Administrative Fellows Laura Miller and Michelle Schafer; and Penn State Berks (PSB) Chancellor R. Keith Hillkirk, along with invited PSB faculty and students.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Oldsey at 8:30 a.m. *Minutes* of the May 3, 2018 meeting of the committee were approved.

Chair Oldsey welcomed Brianne Pragg, Beth Seymour, Chancellor Hillkirk, students, and members of the faculty from Penn State Berks. He then called on administrators for their reports. Nick Jones provided an update on LionPath, citing feedback for continued improvements from students and parents; an upgrade for Lion Path is currently scheduled for 2019. He spoke about improvements in WorkLion, including the onboarding of graduate student appointments; and SIMBA, the University's new financial enterprise system which is scheduled to launch in July 2020. Nick then reported on administrative searches, including the appointment of Amy Freeman as the Director of the Millennium Scholars Program; and the ongoing identification of a candidate for Dean of the College of the Liberal Arts, and the Dean of the College of Health and Human Development. A search committee has been appointed to identify candidates for the Dean of the College of Arts and Architecture. He concluded with a report of Strategic Plan initiatives, including the acceptance of applications for the third round of strategic initiative seed grant funding which opened on July 1, 2018.

Rob Pangborn provided an update on admissions and financial aid, and the University's participation in the American Talent Initiative and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Center for Public University Transformation. These programs are designed to expand access and opportunity, as well as improve graduation rates for lower-income students. Damon Sims reported on Fraternity and Sorority Life, including ongoing efforts to engage current students, University leadership, the community, alumni chapters, and corporate housing organizations in conversations and programming to create a sustainable, successful Greek system. Sims also spoke about the University's ongoing efforts to address student health insurance concerns, as a health-insurance requirement for all full-time U.S. students will be implemented for the 2019-2020 academic year; international students are already subject to this requirement. Concerns regarding increased premium rates for undergraduate and graduate

students were also discussed, as was day-one coverage for those students enrolling in the health care insurance program.

Next, Brianne Pragg provided a report on student government initiatives, including the UPUA's exploration of internship credit cost; a student bill of rights designed to assist students going through the conduct process; sexual violence/assault prevention programming; the development of an online resource guide to answer questions about Penn State; and the distribution of Red Folders, which contain resources for faculty that outline ways to help if a student is thought to be in distress. CCSG will promote the use of social media to highlight student activities in the commonwealth campuses; conduct surveys to analyze positives and negatives of campus events and programs; continue it's support of the All-In Campaign; support the Week of Service program in March, 2019; support THON groups by coordinating social support groups for each campus, and will pursue a policy to provide an "optional, excused Monday" absence for THON participants traveling to University Park from Commonwealth Campuses. Finally, GPSA continues to address insurance issues and medical care for students and their dependents, specifically, proof of insurance gaps that have occurred for students in previous years.

Chancellor Hillkirk welcomed the Committee to campus, and introduced the following PSB faculty and students who shared insights on their programs of study and work at the University: Azar Eslam-Panah, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Kesha Morant Williams, Associate Professor, Communication Arts & Sciences Program; Allison Singles, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology & Mechanical Engineering; David Belousov (Student, Mechanical Engineering); Steven Stamm (Student, Mechanical Engineering); Lauren Kirby (Student, Communication Arts & Science Major); Aymed Z. Rodriguez Ortiz (Student, Communication Arts & Science Major); and Steven Filby (Student, Kinesiology Major).

Finally, Nick Jones, introduced the 2017-2018 Administrative Fellows, Laura Miller and Michelle Schafer, who provided reflections on their experiences in this program. Miller spent her year under the mentorship of David Gray, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer; and Schafer, with Vice President for Research, Neil Sharkey.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

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