A meeting of the Committee on Outreach, Development, and Community Relations was held on September 14, 2017, in room 206 of the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel at 9:31 a.m.

The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Abe Harpster, Vice Chair David Kleppinger, Mark Dambly, Lynn Dietrich, Bob Jubelirer, Jay Paterno, and Kevin Steele.

The following staff members, constituent representatives, or invitees were also present: Eric Barron, Rich Bundy, Paul Clifford, Linsey Covert, Nena Ellis-Koschny, JeanMarie Jacob, Tracey Huston, Nick Jones, Lawrence Lokman, Zach Moore, Tom Poole, Ann Taylor, Zach Taylor, Steve Wagman, and Charima Young.

Chair Harpster opened the meeting. He then asked for approval of the minutes from both the May 4, 2017 and the July 20, 2017 meetings; the motions passed unanimously.

Neil Sharkey introduced a number of presenters who highlight and support the Intellectual Property program "Invent Penn State", a Commonwealth-wide initiative to spur economic development, job creation, and student career success. This program assists those who want to go the next step by taking their idea or product and creating a business model.

Linsey Covert, an Invent Penn State participant, presented information about her business path from a graduate student-project about anti-bullying to fledgling company called TEAMology. Nena Ellis-Koschny, emphasized program assistance for obtaining licenses, patents, venture capital, and marketing tools as well as conferences that offer training and networking for launching startups. Lawrence Lokman offered information about marketing assistance and training that is available to startup companies. Tracey Huston delivered material about Outreach's ability to partner with entrepreneurs by providing logistics for conferences and business partnership connections. Rich Bundy spoke about the RAIN program and available funds for researchers in the College of Agriculture who are transitioning from ideas to commercialization. He also spoke about the 17 Innovation Hubs around the state including the Center for Medical Innovation in the College of Medicine. Further, he spoke about no-cost services available at places like the Happy Valley LaunchBox such as co-working space, legal clinics, intellectual property clinics, and business advice. Zack Moore, Vice President for Government and Community Relations, gave an overview of his office’s role and ability to bring about interactions and communications with federal, state, and local governments and agencies to effect economic development in conjunction with research projects at Penn State. Zack introduced Charima Young whose main focus is liaison to local government and community relations on behalf of Penn State University Park. Paul Clifford, chief executive officer of the Penn State Alumni Association discussed some of the ways in which they work to promote economic development such as sponsorship of Huddle with the Faculty, Fall Career Days, and City Lights.

Chair Abe Harpster asked for ideas for additional items of discussion. Many were offered: review of crisis communication plans; focus on farmland; student government’s partnership with local governments (UP and Commonwealth Campuses), chancellors’ roles in their local communities; advisory boards at Commonwealth Campuses.
Chair Harpster asked for the proposed revisions to the standing orders with respect to public comment move to the Governance and Long-Range Planning Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Zeigler-Byers  
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Office of the Board of Trustees