

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AASL 11**

July 16, 2015

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Room 108 of the Classroom Building, Penn State Beaver, at 1:30 p.m. on July 16, 2015.

The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present: Abe Harpster, Todd Rucci, Allie Goldstein, Luke Metaxas, Alice Pope, and Kay Salvino.

The following staff members were present: Nick Jones, Rob Pangborn, and Ann Zirkle. Invited presenters included 2014-2015 Administrative Fellows Janda Hankinson, Wanda Knight, and Lisa Wandel. Also invited to attend were members of the Penn State Beaver campus: Interim Chancellor Donna Kuga; Director of Academic Affairs, Carey McDougall; and, Director of Student Affairs, Chris Rizzo; faculty member Cassandra Miller-Butterworth; and students Ruhi Patel, Josh Nussbaum, Maura Francis, and Brianna D'Itri.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harpster at 1:30 p.m. The *Minutes* of the May 19, 2015 meeting 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. Douglas R. Cavener as Dean of the Eberly College of Science effective July 18, 2015.

Rob Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education, provided updates on undergraduate admissions; implementation of the new student information system (LionPATH); and the implementation of special committees designed to 1), oversee the General Education Reform, approved by the Faculty Senate in April 2015, and 2), the Joint Special Committee on First-Year Students' Well-being and Safety. Finally, Dr. Pangborn shared a legislative amendment pertaining to extensive background checks for all University employees and volunteers who come into contact with minors. Pennsylvania Act 15 excludes employees who do not have direct contact with children and those whose direct contact is limited to prospective students visiting campus or matriculated students enrolled in the institution.

Chairman Harpster called on Nick Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost, for his remarks to the Committee. Dr. Jones provided information about student research; the Invent Penn State initiative, graduate student stipend improvements, and the growth of professional degree programs. He also provided an update on the progress of the University's Strategic Plan.

Chairman Harpster welcomed Interim Chancellor Kuga and members of the Penn State Beaver campus, who provided information to the Committee. Carey McDougall, Director of Academic Affairs, addressed engaged learning opportunities for students. Dr. Cassandra Miller-Butterworth and her student, Ruhi Patel, shared information about their coursework in conservation genetics, with a focus on white-nose syndrome in the little brown bat population. Director of Student Affairs, Chris Rizzo, spoke about student engagement programs, and was joined by students Joshua Nussbaum, Maura Francis, and Brianna D'Itri, who reflected on their experiences as members of the Penn State Beaver community.

Blannie E. Bowen, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, introduced the 2014-2015 Administrative Fellows and offered each an opportunity to share their reflections on their appointments. Remarks were provided by: Janda Hankinson, Director of Information Technology Services on the University Park campus, who served under the mentorship of Rodney Kirsch, Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations; Lisa Wandel, Director of Residential Dining, Auxiliary and Business Services at University Park, who served under the mentorship of David Gray, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer; and, Wanda Knight, Associate Professor of Art Education and Women's Studies at University Park, Nicholas Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Zirkle
Administrative Support Coordinator
Office of the Board of Trustees