

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AASL 7**

November 13, 2014

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Room 203 of The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel at 1:30 p.m. on November 13, 2014.

The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present: Abe Harpster, Bill Oldsey, Allie Goldstein, Ryan McCombie, and Alice Pope.

Representatives Anand Ganjam, Jenny Blew, Mohamad Ansari were present, along with staff members Nick Jones, Rob Pangborn, Damon Sims, Craig Weidemann and Jeanie Andrews. Also invited to attend were Gary Langsdale, Neil Sharkey, Robert Clark, David Lieb and Gordon Turow.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harpster at 1:32 p.m. Minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting of the Committee were approved.

Chairman Harpster called on Vice President for Student Affairs Damon Sims, and Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education, Rob Pangborn, for remarks to the Committee.

Damon Sims provided an update on the Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Task Force, indicating recommendations are to be provided by the end of this calendar year. His report of these efforts included the importance of student involvement, and a sense of the resource challenges at campuses as well as in the University's international student population.

Rob Pangborn reviewed some of the areas he would be addressing to the full Board on Friday, and also provided a glimpse into the next recruiting class, entering in 2015. He also reported that long-time Admissions Director, Anne Rohrbach, has retired and he is anticipating a new director to be named soon.

Nick Jones provided an update on executive searches and Anand Ganjam provided 1) an update on the student-hosted town forum with President Barron, 2) UPUA hosting the annual mental health and wellness week, and 3) conversations with cultural organizations regarding sensitivity issues.

Gary Langsdale provided an introduction of the Assessment of Operational Risk presentation, which was facilitated by Neil Sharkey, Vice President for Research. Neil discussed the importance of not only financial risks, but also operational risks that could include federal auditors or agents. He provided an overview of operational risks by units under his purview, and reminded everyone that the best protection we have is ensuring appropriate resources and personnel.

Trustee Ryan McCombie introduced Captain Robert Clark, U.S. Navy and Commanding Officer of Penn State ROTC. Captain Clark introduced his colleagues – Ken Weiland, Army ROTC and Eugene McFeely, Air Force ROTC. Captain Clark noted that Penn State has the largest ROTC program in the Big 10 and one of the largest and top performing in the nation. A video was shown that highlighted, among other programs and efforts, the success of Matt Brown, Army ROTC and member of the Penn State Wrestling team. Matt spoke of lessons learned through his ROTC experience and the blessings that have come from Penn State and his ROTC affiliation. Dave Lieb, Senior Associate Vice President for Development, discussed philanthropic approaches for serving unique needs of our military and what Penn State could do to potentially assist in establishing such a gateway.

Damon Sims facilitated, along with colleagues Rob Pangborn and Craig Weidemann, a conversation about engaged scholarship, including how we can incentivize and encourage students to take advantage of the enormous richness of opportunities that Penn State provides. Discussion included the perspective employers have with regard to what potential employees do both inside and outside of the classroom, the role of freshman seminars as an opportunity to encourage faculty to tap into student interests, and academic advising roles and familiarities with engaged scholarship pathways.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanie Andrews
Director, Office of the Board of Trustees