

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AASL 13**

November 19, 2015

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Room 208 of the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, University Park, at 1:30 p.m. on November 19, 2015.

The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Abe Harpster, Vice Chair Allie Goldstein, David Han, Ryan McCombie, Luke Metaxas, Alice Pope, and Kay Salvino. Emerita member, Anne Riley was present.

The following staff members were present: Nick Jones, Rob Pangborn, Damon Sims, and Ann Wyatt. Constituent representatives Emily McDonald, James Strauss, and Jeremy Warner were present. Also invited as presenters were Lion Ambassadors Jerry Bannon, Josh Clothiaux, Rebecca Sredni; University Park Deans Nan Crouter, Bill Easterling, David Monk, Andrew Sears, and Susan Welch; and Vice President for Outreach and Vice Provost for Online Education, Craig Weidemann.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harpster at 1:30 p.m. The *Minutes* of the September 18, 2015 were approved with changes to reflect the September designation of a Task Force to develop Committee Operating Guidelines.

Chairman Harpster called on Nick Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost, for his remarks to the Committee. Nick provided an update on the development of the University's Strategic Plan. Feedback on the draft document has been solicited from the Penn State community via a dedicated website, and will be reviewed by the development committee and integrated into the final plan. The final Graduate and Professional student Town Hall of the fall semester was held at University Park. A special committee has been appointed to begin work on policies and procedures for the assessment of Graduate coursework, with the goal of reporting back to Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Finally, Nick provided an update on the *Invent Penn State* Commonwealth Seed Grants.

Chair Harpster then called on Rob Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education for his report. Rob updated the Committee on Lion Path, citing that it is at a critical stage of implementation; it is expected to be fully functional by Fall. As reported in September, Admissions went "live" in August on Lion Path, and it is now expected that Class Scheduling will be ready for students' use in registering for Fall courses. Rob concluded with information about a new Intercollege Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation; 500 students are taking courses at University Park with the World Campus collaborating to put core courses online. Clusters are represented in seven Colleges, and include study in Technical and Digital Entrepreneurship; New Media; Food and Bioprocessing; and Hospitality Management.

Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs, provided updates from the Office of Student Affairs. He addressed a number of Title IX concerns. The search for the Title IX Coordinator has been completed and the position has been accepted by Paul Apicella, who is currently the Deputy Title IX Director at Drexel; Apicella will join Penn State on November 30. Students have been encouraged to participate in the Sexual Misconduct Survey which is scheduled to end on November 20. The Bystander Intervention Initiative is now called "Stand for State," and will

launch in January 2016. Green Dot trainings have been offered which will provide an option for its participants to serve as future workshop facilitators. The Fraternity and Sorority Life Director, Roy Baker, has accepted a position at another university; Danny Shaha will lead in the interim and a national search for the new director will begin in the spring. Damon reported on risk oversight on alcohol use by students. National trends continue to show that excessive drinking behaviors are on the rise; at Penn State overall use statistics have increased in spite of a strong campus/community partnerships. The University continues to use the BASICS Program as a rehabilitative tool for first time offenders.

UPUA President, Emily McDonald, provided updates on student activities and engagement, including participation in Penn State's Mental Health and Wellness Week, State Day, the legislative outreach platform, Smoke Free Campus initiatives, student fee restructuring, and the Pennsylvania Association of State Related Schools. Progress has been made in efforts to work with the State College Borough on the rezoning of properties so that Graduate Students may qualify for housing that is not otherwise available for students.

Lion Ambassadors Jerry Bannon, Josh Clothiaux, and Rebecca Sredni presented information about their organization, including its history; the recruitment and the application process; organizational structure; and a variety of events offered on campus which are intended to create a sense of tradition and belonging.

Nick Jones introduced a panel of University Park Deans, including Nan Crouter, Bill Easterling, David Monk, Andrew Sears, and Susan Welch. Provost Jones asked the group to share information about the challenges, opportunities and rewards for each of their colleges. During the discussion, the Deans also reflected on strategic planning within their units and their visions for continued growth and innovation.

Craig Weidemann provided an update on the World Campus and Online Learning. The presentation included comparisons of programs instituted in 1998 with those in 2015. Craig offered goals and demographics for the World Campus, strategic brand and program marketing, and current corporate alliance program information. Finally, he shared plans for future growth of the World Campus, including military affiliations; global entrepreneurship; EdTech Networks; and the Center for Online Innovation in Learning.

Chair Harpster thanked Alice Pope, Jim Strauss, Luke Metaxas, and Kay Salvino for their service on the Task Force that has been charged with developing Operating Guidelines for the Committee. Discussions and refinements will continue at future meetings.

Finally, Nick Jones spoke at length about the process, themes, and timelines used in the development the University's next Strategic Plan.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

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