

AASL 6-1

Board of Trustees
Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life
Minutes of Meeting
Volume AASL 6
September 18, 2014

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Room 234 of The Bank of America Career Services Center at 1:30 p.m. on September 18, 2014.

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

Student representatives Ananad Ganjam, Mohamad Ansari and the following staff members were present: Jenny Blew, Madlyn Hanes, Nick Jones, Rob Pangborn, Damon Sims and Christina Pillot. Also invited to attend for the presentation were Seth Diggs, Meg Handley, Betsy Lau, Bob Martin, Bob Orndorff, Susan Knell, Lenny Pollack, and Abigail Diehl.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harpster at 1:30 p.m. Minutes of the July 10, 2014 meeting of the Committee; the minutes were approved.

Chairman Harpster called on Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education, Rob Pangborn, for his remarks to the Committee. Rob gave an update on admissions, noting that the 2015 admissions cycle has begun. For the 2014 academic year, more than 17,000 first-year baccalaureate students have been admitted. The second year of the Provost Award program has provided much-needed support to students from lower income families. A new online course placement system was introduced for first-year undergraduates and transfer students which allows for diagnostic math placement and learning modules to strengthen math skills.

Chairman Harpster called on Vice President for Student Affairs, Damon Sims, for remarks. Damon shared insights about the beginning of the new school year, including the President's Convocation and Welcome Week activities. He noted that the residence halls are 105% over capacity and the move-in process went well despite the crowding. Student involvement remains extraordinary at both UP and the campuses. Fall Career Days takes place this week, the largest university career fair in the country. The Committee also heard about continuing challenges with a first-year student suicide at the beginning of the year reminding us of the need to address the emotional and mental health of our students; we now have an off-campus location for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to reach more students and enable more staff to address the challenges with alcohol and other drug abuse. Student leaders have been partners in identifying policies and practices to minimize the problem. Damon is chairing the Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Task Force appointed by President Barron, with recommendations due by the end of the semester.

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Anand Ganjam, president of the University Park Undergraduate Association, summarized UPUA initiatives, including a focus on Counseling & Psychological Services and sexual assault prevention. UPUA is deeply engaged in discussions about transportation and parking, a possible bike and ride sharing program, benchmarking to learn more about student technology resources, and encouraging greater student involvement in the civic life of State College by facilitating student representation on local boards and commissions

An Educational presentation to the Committee was provided on the topic of Student Career Success at Penn State. Damon noted that Penn State's career service activities are among the strongest in the country. The often-cited *Wall Street Journal* ranking, which identified Penn State graduates as the prospective new employees most sought after by corporate America, is three years old, but it still reflects the strength of our efforts in this area. However, since the ranking is somewhat dated, there is renewed energy around efforts to ensure that when such a ranking is produced again, Penn State remains a leader in career success for students.

Damon emphasized the importance of sustaining and strengthening the hybrid model used at Penn State, whereby the central career service operation, housed within Student Affairs, works in concert with the career services found in the individual colleges and on the campuses, as well as the Alumni Association; this model is preferable to either the wholly centralized model or the wholly dispersed model of service delivery found at other institutions.

The staff in the central Career Services operation, led by Senior Director, Bob Orndorff, led the Committee through a full report, including the essential outcomes for student career success at Penn State, which include career path exploration, building competitive portfolios, and marketing one's self to employers and graduate schools.

The Committee discussed the five long-term goals for career services. These goals are to establish an even more collaborative and efficient hybrid model, assess and evaluate the impact and quality of current services, incorporate customized and mobile career coaching that reaches out to students where they live and socialize, serve an even higher percentage of students, and increase the diversity of the employer base by better engaging Penn State alumni in this process.

A tour of the Bank of America Career Services Center followed.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Pillot
Executive Assistant
to the Vice President for Student Affairs