

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME AASL 12**

**September 17, 2015**

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Executive Suite I and II of the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, University Park, at 8:00 a.m. on September 17, 2015.

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

The following staff members were present: Eric Barron, Nick Jones, Damon Sims, and Ann Wyatt. Constituent representatives James Strauss and Jeremy Warner were present. Also invited as a presenter was Blannie Bowen.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harpster at 8:00 a.m. The *Minutes* of the July 16, 2015 meeting were approved.

Chairman Harpster called on Nick Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost, for his remarks to the Committee. A series of seven Graduate and Professional student Town Halls have been scheduled throughout the fall for individual colleges; the October 12 town hall will be live streamed to several Commonwealth Campuses. Nick reported that Lance Kennedy-Phillips will lead the former Office of Planning and Institutional Assessment as well as the new Office for Learning Assessment to work closely with the Deans, Chancellors, and other academic and senior administrators to continue building a culture of assessment across all of the University's academic units. Summer campus programs including Pathway to Success: Summer Start (PaSSS) and Research Experience for Undergraduates in Engineering (REUs) provided meaningful work, educational, and research experiences for undergraduate students. Finally, Nick provided an update on the development of the University's Strategic Plan.

Chair Harpster then called on Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs, for remarks to the Committee. First, Damon provided a recruitment and admissions report on behalf of Rob Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education. Total applications for all levels (undergraduate, graduate, law, medicine and Penn College) are increased for this year. Average SATs are higher than last year. Admissions went "live" in the new student information system on August 15; effective September 1, all applications for Summer/Fall 2016 are being imported into LionPATH. Prospective students attended the Spend-A-Summer-Day events on the University Park Campus in August. Finally, Damon reported that the Intercollege Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation is growing rapidly, with 465 students enrolled across the three core courses. Clusters comprised of three courses along various themes build on the core and are attracting students from eight different colleges. The World Campus is collaborating with Undergraduate Education to develop and offer the core courses online so they can be made available to students at the Commonwealth Campuses.

Damon then provided updates from the Office of Student Affairs. Per recommendations from the Task Force on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment, the search for a Title IX Coordinator has been refined to four finalists; the Bystander Intervention Program is underway, with training provided by Green Dot; a new investigative model for handling sexual misconduct cases fully up and running at UP; and, the Campus Climate survey on sexual assault is in the final stages of development and will be administered from early to mid-November. President Barron will appoint a Fraternity and Sorority Life Task Force soon. More than 130 individuals volunteered for service on the Task Force, which will offer its report and recommendations in early 2016. Damon concluded with an overview of the increased need for the mental and emotional health services that are provided to students through the University Park Counseling and Psychological Services operation.

Trustee Allie Goldstein provided a report on behalf of UPUA President, Emily McDonald, including student participation in the *Penn State Call to Action: Stopping Sexual Misconduct*. UPUA is assisting with the implementation of Sexual Assault Task Force recommendations, and working with other student groups on this, and other initiatives, such as Mental Health Awareness Week and the development of a Student Lobbying Commission.

Finally, Blannie Bowen, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, provided a report on Faculty, Promotion, and Tenure at Penn State. Included were tenure and promotion demographics; the three-tiered tenure review process; promotions to full professorship; and shared governance.

Chair Harpster expressed a need for the Committee to develop Operating Guidelines; he confirmed that he would appoint a task force to work on the project, and asked that any Committee members interested in being part of the task force let him know.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

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