

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AARSL 40**

May 5, 2022

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life of the Board of Trustees was held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, and via video conference, at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2022.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Oldsey, Vice Chair Wagman, Brown, Davis, Detwiler, Hoffman, Paterno, Pope, and Rowland. Also attending were Chair Schuyler (*Ex Officio*), President Barron (*Ex Officio*), President-elect Bendapudi, and Faculty Representative Blockett. Also present were Bieschke, Gaudelius, Harvey, Jones, Kennedy-Philips, Sims, and Smith, M.

Chair Oldsey called for a motion for the Committee to approve the *Minutes* of the February 17, 2022 committee meeting. The motion to approve came from Vice Chair Wagman, and Trustee Rowland then seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Oldsey stated that a consistent theme arose during his recent engagement with Penn State students and student leaders and felt it important to move the topic to the May meeting schedule to better understand student housing and food insecurity and its impact on student success. Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs, assembled a team of faculty, employer and staff panelists who represent and contribute to Penn State's efforts to address students' financial insecurities. The panel included Anna Barone, Director of Student Care & Advocacy; Natahsha Baumgartner, Manager of Student Support Services and Student Insurance Advocate; Erin Boas, Past-President, University Park Undergraduate Association; Barry Bram, Senior Director of Student Engagement Programs; Adam Christensen, Director of Student Affairs Research and Assessment; Lorraine Craven, Director of Student Services and Engagement at Penn State Greater Allegheny; Taylor Dorsett, President, Lion's Pantry; Andrea Dowhower, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Matthew Nied, Director of Student Services and Engagement at Penn State Scranton; John Papazoglou, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary & Business Services; and Najee Rodriguez, President, University Park Undergraduate Association.

Sims noted that the problem of food and housing insecurity among college students is neither new, nor unique to Penn State, and provided national and local survey statistics. During the panel discussion, it was noted that many of the elements to effectively address the food and housing insecurity needs of Penn State students already exist but require better coordination and additional resources to fully meet the challenges. The University is currently advancing a number of new initiatives as a result, including a better assessment of the problem at Penn State with the fall 2021 Food and Housing Needs; housing scholarships; improvements to the student-run Lion's Pantry at University Park – including the addition of refrigeration – and pantries at Commonwealth Campuses; a partnership with Swipe Out Hunger to assist in expanding the Penn State Student Emergency Fund; and elevated advocacy at federal, state and local levels.

Discussion and conversation focused on the stigma associated with food insecurity, eliminating obstacles for students to access and navigate resources, new approaches to increase visibility of services, resources to assist underinsured students, the improving physical food pantries and virtual meal plan/grocery store gift card programs, and creating a "community culture of care".

The meeting is available in its entirety [here](#).

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stevens
Administrative Support Coordinator
Office of the Board of Trustees