

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT LIFE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME AARSL 41**

**July 21, 2022**

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life of the Board of Trustees was held at The Conference Center, Main Classroom Building at the Penn State York Campus and via video conference, at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Wagman, Vice Chair Pope, Brown, Davis, Detwiler, Fenchak, Hoffman, Paterno, Riegel, and Rowland. Also attending were Chair Schuyler (*Ex Officio*), President Bendapudi (*Ex Officio*), and Constituent Representatives Gibbard, Smith, S., Stine, and Sturges. Also present were Bieschke, Dunham, Gaudelius, Guadagnino, Harvey, Kennedy-Philips, Sims, and Smith, M., Stedelin, Thorndike, Weiss, and Whitehurst.

Chair Wagman recognized new Committee Vice Chair Trustee Pope and welcomed new AARSL Committee members Trustee Fenchak; Secretary of Education, Trustee Hagarty; and Trustee Riegel. Chair Wagman called for a motion for the Committee to approve the *Minutes* of the May 5, 2022 committee meeting. The motion to approve came from Trustee Davis, and Trustee Rowland then seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Wagman noted the Board was honored to be at Penn State York after having to delay due to the pandemic for the past two years. He welcomed Penn State York Chancellor David Christiansen, who shared the importance of undergraduate research opportunities, student experiences related to clubs and organizations, and the Graham Fellows Program for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Penn State York Campus. Chancellor Christiansen introduced members of the administrative team, faculty and students as panelists to present an overview on the three examples of transformative education initiatives at Penn State York. Panelists included Dr. Robert Farrell, Director of Academic Affairs; Dr. Anne Vardo-Zalik, Associate Professor of Biology; Allan Lehman, Director of the Graham Center for Innovation and Collaboration; and students Austin Albright, Ryan Dellinger, Victoria Huynh, Mady Imboden, and Gia Ramos.

Farrell discussed the importance of undergraduate research at the campus drawing special attention to the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research held each year to feature students presenting the research outcomes of their work with faculty members. Vardo-Zalik discussed the importance of undergraduate biology students having one-on-one research opportunities with faculty members where they can develop fundamental skills for employment or further education as well as develop a stronger sense of self, purpose and responsibility. Students Imboden and Ramos spoke about the impact research opportunities have had on their academic development. Students Albright, Dellinger and Huynh shared their experiences preparing and competing in the national Future Business Leaders of America leadership conferences, representing the Phi Beta Lambda chapter at Penn State York. Lehman provided an overview of the Graham Fellows Program which partners with business and industry to help prepare Graham candidates for their professional careers, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to be innovative leaders within a collaborative environment. Students Albright and Huynh, who are Graham Fellows, spoke about the value of networking events with corporate partners and attendance at a variety of workshops to help prepare them for future careers.

Discussion and conversation focused on needs such as additional resources for faculty engagement and professional development, as well as to support undergraduate students with research opportunities.

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

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stevens  
Administrative Support Coordinator  
Office of the Board of Trustees