

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AARSL 45**

June 15, 2023

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life of the Board of Trustees was held via video conference call at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Wagman, Vice Chair Pope, Brown, Detwiler, Fenchak, Hoffman, Paterno, and Riegel. Also attending were President Bendapudi (*Ex Officio*), Emeriti Trustee Henning, and Constituent Representatives Stine and Lynch.

Also present were Bieschke, Dowhower, Guadagnino, Harvey, Hills, Kim, Matty, Oziemblowsky, Pell, Schwartz, and Smith.

Chair Wagman welcomed panelists and members of the public to the committee meeting. He noted for the public attending via Microsoft Livestream, the agenda and supporting materials would be available at www.trustees.psu.edu. He recognized the outstanding service of Vice Chair Pope during her nine-year tenure on the committee and thanked her for her substantive contributions such as prioritizing Penn State rankings, upgrading the quality of academic programs, improving resources for student success and mental health, and emphasizing the importance of shared governance as a shared responsibility. He also commended the service of Student Trustee Davis and Immediate Past Chair of the University Staff Advisory Council Romig who are fulfilling their tenures on the committee.

Chair Wagman then called for a motion for the Committee to approve the *Minutes* of the March 16, 2023 committee meeting. The motion to approve came from Trustee Pope, it was seconded by Trustee Hoffman, and unanimously approved.

Chair Wagman introduced Dr. Lora Weiss, Vice President for Research, to lead a panel presentation and discussion on strategies for strengthening and expanding the research enterprise at Penn State, currently valued at one billion dollars. He congratulated her on her recent selection to serve as director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's CHIPS Research and Development (R&D) office for a two-year appointment beginning July 1st, 2023. He introduced Dr. Andrew Read, currently director of the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences and Evan Pugh Professor of Biology and Entomology and Eberly Professor of Biotechnology, who will serve as Interim Vice President for Research during Weiss's two-year appointment. Read will serve as the executive liaison for research-related Committee oversight responsibilities.

Chair Wagman noted one of Dr. Bendapudi's five Presidential Goals is to grow interdisciplinary research excellence and leverage Penn State's breadth of expertise to enable it to further scholarship and creative activity to tackle the most pressing challenges facing the commonwealth, nation, and world. The committee's responsibilities include informing the strategic direction of the university's research enterprise to assure research and academic programs are consistent with Penn State's mission and strategic plan, as well as guaranteeing adequate resources are provided for research, academics, and student services.

Toward these goals, Weiss provided an overview of Penn State's FY22 research enterprise, expenditures, and compliance and facilitated discussions by the panel of researchers and scholars. Discussions involved exploration of how Penn State is positioned to excel in research endeavors; what might be limiting the university from achieving its full potential in research; strategic research opportunities; and comparison of Penn State with other research institutions, collaborators, and competitors, including Big Ten universities. Panel members included:

- Bruce Logan, Director, Institutes of Energy and the Environment, Evan Pugh University Professor, Kappe Professor of Environmental Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Cassie Mansfield, Professor of Art History, Head of the Department of Art History
- Andrew Read, Director, Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences, Evan Pugh Professor of Biology and Entomology, Eberly Professor of Biotechnology

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- Marty Sliwinski, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Director, Center for Healthy Aging
- Susan Troler-McKinstry, Evan Pugh University Professor, Steward S. Flaschen Professor of Ceramic Science and Engineering, Professor of Electrical Engineering.

The meeting is available in its entirety [here](#). The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Oziemblowsky
Associate Director
Office of the Board of Trustees