

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME 347**

**Sept 8, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Eric J. Barron Innovation Center, State College, PA and via video conference on Friday, September 8, 2023 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The following Trustees, constituting a quorum, were present: Schuyler (Chair), Kleppinger (Vice Chair), Bendapudi, Amoros, Beard, Black, Brown, Cairns, de Levie, Delligatti, Detwiler, Dietrich, Dunn, Fenchak, Fenza, Gursahaney, Harpster, Hasenkopf, Hoffman, Lubrano, Lynch, Mumin, Onorato, Paterno, Potts, Quintos, Rapp, Riegel, Rowland, Schneider, Schuyler, Short, Sokolov, and Wagman. The Governor's non-voting representative, Mr. Myers, was in attendance.

Present by invitation were Emeriti Trustee Doran, Han, and Tribeck; constituent representatives Ajjsafe, Concepcion, Duffey, DuFour, Kerr, Egolf, Levandosky, Miller, O'Toole, Serfass, Seymour, Stine, and Wede; staff members Adams, Bieschke, Brautigam, Callejo-Perez, Dale, Dowhower, Guadagnino, Harlow, Harvey, Kraft, Lieb, Massini, Melvin, Moore, Oman, Oziemblowsky, Pell, Read, Schwartz, Sitzabee, Smith, Thorndike, Wilkes, and Wilson.

Chair Schuyler opened the meeting by welcoming attendees to the first Board of Trustees meeting in the new academic year. He noted to begin the fall semester, President Bendapudi welcomed a class of 9,400 first-year students at University Park and 2,200 World Campus students watching via livestream at New Student Convocation. The Penn State class of 2027 is diverse, representing forty-five U.S. states, Guam, and Puerto Rico, as well as seventy-three nations around the world. Over 4,000 are from Pennsylvania and 850 are international students. Nearly 1,700 are the first in their families to go to college. Thirty-nine veterans who served in the United States armed forces are also joining the class of 2027. Chair Schuyler welcomed Penn State's incoming class, returning students, and World Campus students attending Penn State from around the world on behalf of the Board of Trustees and wished them all best of luck.

Chair Schuyler noted World Campus is celebrating twenty-five years of online education at Penn State, after beginning in January 1998 when its first class in turfgrass management debuted online. Currently, Penn State World Campus offers a comprehensive selection of online programs, with more than 175 degree and certificate programs providing a high quality and engaging online college experience akin to academic programs supplied students attending Penn State campuses in-residence. To mark this milestone, Penn State Berkey Creamery's birthday cake-flavored ice cream has been temporarily renamed "Penn State World Campus 25th Birthday Bash", and it will be available for scoop purchase in Berkey Creamery through November 30, 2023.

Chair Schuyler observed Penn State Commonwealth Campuses also welcomed students back. For instance, Chancellor Radha Pyati, who assumed the role of chancellor and dean of Penn State Berks on July 1, 2023, welcomed students and families while coordinator of student support services Alexa Hodge encouraged students through a speech entitled "Belonging: You Matter" to lean on the connections they form to build their own community. Penn State Dickinson Law Convocation welcomed 108 members of the Class of 2026, two-thirds of them are the first in their family to attend graduate school and nearly one-third of them were the first in their family to attend college. Almost half identify as students of color and roughly 20% identify as part of the LGBTQ community.

Chair Schuyler mentioned the College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Extension enterprise showcased their programs at Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition, in mid-August. With nearly all College of Agricultural Sciences academic departments and extension offices participating, this outreach and educational event hosted over 40,000 attendees and exemplifies Penn State's land-grant mission and its positive impact on the Commonwealth's agricultural progress.

Chair Schuyler welcomed the incoming cohort of Administrative Fellows, including Melissa Doberstein, Program Director of the Presidential Leadership Academy for Schreyer Honors College, who is spending the year with Jennifer Wilkes; Scarlett Miller, Professor of engineering design and industrial engineering

in the College of Engineering, whom Justin Schwartz is mentoring; and Juliet Pinto, Associate Professor in Journalism in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, whom is spending the year with Renata Engel learning online education.

Chair Schuyler lauded the career of Frank Guadagnino, who is retiring from Penn State after serving as interim Vice President and General Counsel from October 2022 through August 2023. Prior to his appointment to the interim position, Frank served as Vice President for Administration, where he was responsible for the administration of the Office of the President, the Office of Ethics and Compliance, the Office of Veterans' Services and the Office of the Board of Trustees. In that role, Frank also served as Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Prior to joining the Office of General Counsel as Associate General Counsel in 2014, Frank was a senior partner at Reed Smith LLP where he provided legal advice and counsel on a wide range of corporate governance, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and other transactional matters. Guadagnino served three University presidents and has worked with four Board chairs. Chair Schuyler presented him with Penn State Elms Collection keepsake box as a small token of the Board of Trustees appreciation for his distinguished service.

Chair Schuyler greeted Penn State's new Vice President and General Counsel, Tabitha Oman. Oman had previously served as the University's chief ethics and compliance officer. He noted Oman's unique mix of experiences from the public, government, and private sectors as well as her higher education experience and understanding of the critical role of the General Counsel were among the factors that best qualified her for the position. President Bendapudi noted her deep commitment to higher education and thorough background in Penn State's legal and compliance enterprise and was delighted for her new role.

Chair Schuyler recognized the recent retreat where Trustees and Penn State leadership reflected on the past year, had the opportunity to begin discussion of the Board's Internal Self-Assessment Report, and hear from the Goal Leads and Co-Leads on the strengths, challenges and opportunities for advancing the Presidents goals and vision. It is evident that this Board is deeply committed to supporting President Bendapudi in creating transformational experiences for students, faculty, and staff across Penn State's twenty-four Commonwealth Campuses and online World Campus while advancing Penn State as an engine of research, discovery, and economic development for Pennsylvania, the nation, and world. He thanked Trustees for their energy, enthusiasm and deep commitment to their responsibilities as Trustees.

Shannon Harvey, Assistant Vice President/Secretary, Office of the Board of Trustees, reported all Trustees were present except for Trustees Krieger, Pegula and Redding, constituting a quorum.

Chair Schuyler welcomed Emeriti Trustees Doran, Han, and Tribeck, noted Trustees previously met in executive session to discuss various privileged matters, and called the meeting to order. He acknowledged the Board received 97 public comments, 94 of which related to the Board's agenda, including fiscal year 2024-2025 appropriations for operations with respect to funding of the Daily Collegian. Such funding will continue to be provided by a news consortium, supported by student fees, which will provide resources to several student media outlets, as well as scholarships for students, support for student travel, access to AP wire service, and state-of-the art facilities in the newly remodeled Willard Building. The Board recognizes the Daily Collegian and all student news important role in providing experiential learning and keeping the campus community informed. The Board further reviewed comments related to course credit surcharge, financial practices, and sustainability efforts. Submitted comments are available on the Board's website.

### **Consent Agenda Action Items**

Chair Schuyler noted that there were three Consent Agenda Action Items for consideration before the Board. A motion to approve Consent Agenda Action Items 3a, 3b, and 3c was put forward by Trustee Delligatti, seconded by Trustee Rowland, and approved by the Board.

#### **3.a.) Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2023 and August 15, 2023**

#### **3.b.) Revised 2023 Dates for Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

Will the Board of Trustees approve the revised meeting dates for 2023 as follows. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at University Park.

February 16-17, 2023 (Thursday-Friday)  
May 4-5, 2023 (Thursday-Friday)  
July 20-21, 2023 (Thursday-Friday) – Penn State Behrend  
September 7-8, 2023 (Thursday-Friday)  
November 9-10, 2023 (Thursday-Friday)

**3.c.) Proposed Election of Directors to the Corporation for Penn State**

According to the *Bylaws* of The Corporation for Penn State, the members of the Corporation shall meet annually for the purpose of electing directors. The Pennsylvania State University is the sole member of The Corporation for Penn State.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the following persons be elected to the Board of Directors of The Corporation for Penn State:

Neeli Bendapudi	Matthew W. Schuyler
Naren K. Gursahaney	Justin Schwartz
M. Abraham Harpster	Michael Wade Smith
David M. Kleppinger	Sara F. Thorndike
Kelley M. Lynch	Steven B. Wagman
Tracy A. Riegel	

**Action Items**

Chair Schuyler requested Sara Thorndike, Senior Vice President for Finance & Business/Treasurer, provide remarks and context for the Board's consideration of Action Item 4.a. A motion to approve Agenda Action Item 4.a. was put forward by Trustee Short, seconded by Trustee de Levie, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**4.a.) Proposed Appointment of Non-University Employees to the Penn State Investment Council**

The Penn State Investment Council ("PSIC") shall consist of four ex-officio members and eight to ten at-large members. The ex-officio members shall be the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer, as Chairperson of PSIC, the Chief Investment Officer, Office of Investment Management, the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Finance of the Committee on Finance, Business and Capital Planning of the Board of Trustees. In addition, the Board of Trustees shall appoint eight to ten at-large members who shall not be employees of the University, three of whom shall be voting or emeritus members of the Board of Trustees. At-large members of PSIC shall serve for three-year staggered terms and shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) three-year terms.

Ex-Officio Members:

- Joseph M. Cullen, Chief Investment Officer
- Mary Lee Schneider, Chair of the Subcommittee on Finance of the Committee on Finance, Business and Capital Planning of the PSU Board of Trustees
- Matthew W. Schuyler, Chair PSU Board of Trustees
- Sara F. Thorndike, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer

Terms Expiring December 31, 2023:

- Barbara L. Doran, Emerita Member PSU Board of Trustees
- J. Alex Hartzler
- J. David Rogers

Terms Expiring December 31, 2024:

- Blake Gall
- Edward R. Hintz

- Joseph B. Markovich
- Brandon D. Short, PSU Board of Trustees

Terms Expiring December 31, 2025:

- Randy E. Black, PSU Board of Trustees
- James P. Brandau
- Colleen Ostrowski

It is proposed to re-appoint Barbara L. Doran, J. Alex Hartzler, and J. David Rogers, non-University employees, to the Penn State Investment Council with terms currently expiring December 31, 2023, to three-year terms expiring December 31, 2026.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That Barbara L. Doran, J. Alex Hartzler, and J. David Rogers, non-University employees, are appointed to the Penn State Investment Council each for three-year terms ending December 31, 2026.

Chair Schuyler requested Thorndike provide remarks and context for the Board's consideration of Action Item 4.b. A motion to approve Agenda Action Item 4.b. was put forward by Trustee Cairns, seconded by Trustee Rapp, and approved by the Board. Trustees Dunn and Mumin abstained from voting.

#### **4.b.) Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations**

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Officers of the University are authorized to submit to the Legislature, appropriate departments, and offices of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a State Appropriation Request for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$483.373 million.

Chair Schuyler observed the Committee on Governance and Long-Range Planning met on Sept 7, 2023 and by unanimous vote recommended Naren Gursahaney be elected as at-large member to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. A motion to approve Agenda Action Item 4.c. was put forward by Trustee Fenza, seconded by Trustee Rapp, and approved by the Board. Trustee Fenchak opposed the motion.

#### **4.c.) Election of At-Large Membership to the Executive Committee**

In accordance with the *Bylaws* (Article III; Section 3.02), at-large members for appointment to the Executive Committee can be nominated by the Committee on Governance and Long-Range Planning, with election by the Board, as necessary to have an executive committee of thirteen (13) members.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That Naren K. Gursahaney be elected as an at-large member to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, effective immediately.

Chair Schuyler noted the granting of Trustee Emeritus status is reserved for any living former member of the Board who has served for six years or more with distinction. A subgroup of the Committee on Governance and Long-Range Planning consisting of Trustees Delligatti, Hoffman and Riegel reviewed the service records of Alice Pope and Walt Rakowich whose terms on the Board of Trustees ended this year, and Alex Hartzler, whose term on the Board of Trustees ended in 2022. They recommended that all three former trustees be considered for Emeriti status. The Governance and Long-Range Planning Committee confirmed the recommendation of the subgroup, and now recommends to the Board the granting of Emeritus status for Alex Hartzler, Alice Pope, and Walt Rakowich.

A motion to approve the granting of Emeritus status to former Trustee Hartzler was put forward, seconded, and approved by the Board. Trustees Fenchak and Lubrano opposed the motion.

A motion to approve the granting of Emeritus status to former Trustee Pope was put forward, seconded, and approved by the Board. Trustees Fenchak and Lubrano opposed the motion.

Lastly, a motion to approve the granting of Emeritus status to former Trustee Rakowich was additionally put forward, seconded, and approved by the Board. Trustees Fenchak and Lubrano opposed the motion.

Emeritus status was automatically conferred on Trustee Mark Dambly, given his role as past board chair.

Chair Schuyler welcomed Paul Clifford, Chief Executive Officer of the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA) and Associate Vice President for alumni relations for Penn State, to provide the Board with an update on PSAA. Clifford noted PSAA delivers world-class communications, valuable services, and programs that engage 775,338 alumni world-wide and inspires engagement, philanthropy, volunteerism and advocacy. PSAA consists of 174,200 members, the largest dues paying alumni organization in the world. PSAA's closest peers include Stanford University, the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of California, Berkley. PSAA keeps alumni connected for life, engaging last year 186,000 alumni at in-person, virtual, and hybrid events.

Clifford said the PSAA network has 245 affiliate groups, more than any other school in the country. There are over 3,000 volunteer leaders involved with PSAA affiliate groups who are instrumental in engaging alumni and friends. Groups support the University through philanthropy and thousands of hours of local community service work and partner with Penn State units to leverage local connections. Examples of PSAA outreach and efforts to power career connections amongst alumni and students include the Lion Link project, the Young Alumni Ambassador program, senior year experience, the Roar Tour support to student athletes, alumni rallies at Penn State football games, and many other programs to harness the power of the Penn State network and enhance Penn State's land grant mission. These efforts foster a sense of belonging to advance President Bendapudi's goal of enhancing student success.

PSAA impacts across Penn State include \$50,000 support of THON, affiliate groups generating more than \$500,000 annually, \$300,000 support to college and campus alumni societies, 174,200 dues paying Alumni Association membership, \$200,000 support of Intercollegiate Athletics, 451 scholarships awarded from affiliate group endowments with a book value of \$13.4M, \$3M gifts made by PSAA during Greater Penn State, and during the campaign 115,596 PSAA members made gifts totaling more than \$960M.

### **President's Remarks**

President Bendapudi noted it was exciting to begin a new semester for 9,400 new students, including 1,700 first generation students to the college experience for the first time. She observed Penn State continues to successfully attract students from around the Commonwealth, the country, and the world, with significant outreach by Penn State alumni to encourage admissions to this great land-grant university. She lauded World Campus and its celebration of 25 years, which carries out its online education with a deep sense of purpose and agility to reach students in innovative ways using cutting edge technology to supply life-long learning opportunities. She said Penn State students are remarkable, as evidenced in the Presidential leadership class she is teaching this semester. She praised faculty for their hard work to mentor and teach Penn State's students, including the sustainability and agricultural research efforts seen yesterday on the Agricultural Tour. She cited pathogenic threats, artificial intelligence to improve air quality models, medical genomics and human chromosome sequencing, high performance battery manufacturing, humanities and arts, and many other research efforts as examples of Penn State's leading-edge research. She thanked Penn State faculty, staff, and students for their dedicated contributions to the university. She further praised Frank Guadagnino for his efforts over his Penn State career to his alma mater.

President Bendapudi highlighted research that makes a difference is ongoing at Penn State. For instance, she discussed Penn State's work on the initiative to strengthen the United States defense capabilities to upgrade defense superiority. She was impressed by Penn State's training of students by faculty which yields commercialization, and brought Dr. John Mauro, Dorothy Pate Enright Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Penn State and lead researcher on the LionGlass project, and Julianne

Chen, B.S., Chemical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Schreyer Honors College, Dr. Mauro's principal research assistant, to discuss their innovative creation of a new glass called LionGlass. Dr. Mauro discussed his research on LionGlass in detail, which significantly lowered greenhouse gas emissions during production, increased its durability, and made it difficult to crack. Mauro noted he was privileged to work with students to create such pioneering technologies. He desired to achieve long-term royalties for Penn State when marketing LionGlass, which could be used to fund scholarships for underrepresented and traditionally underrepresented communities who may need financial assistance. LionGlass is a great example of how Penn State research can be brought to market and yield significant returns to the university to enhance student success, grow the research enterprise, and facilitate economic growth throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

President Bendapudi's remarks are available to view in their entirety [here](#).

### **Closing Remarks/Announcements**

Chair Schuyler thanked President Bendapudi for her leadership and guests Paul Clifford, Dr. John Mauro and Julianne Chen for their presentations. He said the academic innovation and research they are doing is an example of how Penn State is deeply enmeshed in entrepreneurial culture, economic innovation, and start-up development. Through its university-wide entrepreneurial ecosystem, including research like theirs focused on technology transfer and commercialization, Chair Schuyler remarked Penn State can be a leader in transforming scholarly breakthroughs into real-world impact.

Chair Schuyler noted the next public meeting of the Board will be on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at University Park.

There being no other business, the public meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon S. Harvey  
Secretary, Board of Trustees