

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME 349**

**Feb 16, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the Hintz Family Alumni Center, University Park, PA and via video conference on Friday, February 16th, 2024 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, Davis, de Levie, Delligatti, Detwiler, Dietrich, Dunn, Fenchak, Fenza, Harpster, Hasenkopf, Hoffman, Krieger, Lubrano, Lynch, Mumin, Myers, Onorato, Paterno, Pegula, Potts, Quintos, Riegel, Rowland, Schuyler, K., Schneider, Short, Sokolov, and Wagman. The Governor's non-voting representative, Mr. Myers, was also in attendance.

Present by invitation were Emeriti Trustees Doran, Oldsey, Pope, and Tribeck, constituent representatives Concepcion, Duffey, Egolf, Galloway, Ganjam, Ingram, Miller, O'Toole, Serfass, Stine, and staff members Adams, Bieschke, Dale, Dowhower, Fischer, Harlow, Harvey, Hills, Johnson, Lucas, Matty, Moore, Oman, Oziemblosky, Pell, Schwartz, Sitzabee, Smith, Stefan, Thorndike, Wilkes, and Wilson. Administrative Fellows Doberstein, Miller, and Pinto also attended.

Chair Schuyler opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and recognizing David Davis, who was recently nominated by Governor Shapiro and confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate to serve as a member of the Penn State Board of Trustees. He thanked Stan Rapp, who was appointed to the Board by Governor Wolf in 2017, for his recently completed tenure as a Trustee. He welcomed Megan Nagel, Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of Penn State Greater Allegheny, Maber Grove, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, and Mik Stefan, who was selected as Vice President for Government and Community Relations beginning Feb 3, 2024. He lauded Zack Moore's leadership as Vice President of Government and Community Relations for the last seven years and thanked him for his seventeen years of dedicated service to Penn State, presenting him with a keepsake box with medallion from the Penn State Elms Collection as a token of the Board's appreciation.

Chair Schuyler noted the Board's February meeting cycle marked THON weekend. He introduced Will Vincent, Executive Director for 2024 THON, and Kelly Altland, Chief Development Officer for Penn State Health & College of Medicine, who provided an overview of 2024 THON activities taking place Feb 16-18, 2024 in the Bryce Jordan Center. Powered by 16,500 student volunteers, 700 dancers, 300 organizations, and 25,000 alumni supporters, the annual 46-hour dance marathon has raised over \$219 million and helped 4,900 families in the fight against pediatric cancer since 1973. THON utilizes Peer to Peer (P2P) fundraising to connect family, friends, and interested individuals with opportunities to contribute to pediatric cancer research and treatment. Inspired by THON, mini-THON has engaged 90,000 students in five states and raised over \$64 million over thirty years since 1994.

Chair Schuyler recognized and thanked student leaders for their engagement and collegiality, including University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Nora O'Toole and Vice President Giselle Concepcion; Council Of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) President Elise DuFour and Vice President Jacob Levendosky; Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) President Lawrence Miller and Vice President Jillian Kerr; and World Campus Student Government Association (WCSGA) President Daniel Serfass and Vice President Jackie Salan-Del Cid. He commended and expressed the Board's support for President Bendapudi and her senior leadership team for the work they are doing in partnership with students, faculty, and staff to articulate a road map that will position Penn State for continued success in an ever changing and challenging higher education landscape. Further, he recognized Student Trustee Schuyler for his participation in Governor's College Day of Action on January 22nd and Faculty Trustee Rowland for his recognition as one of thirteen professors who was recently named distinguished professor for 2024 by Penn State's Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.

Chair Schuyler mentioned that the Board met in executive session on January 29th to discuss various Board initiatives but did not take any action following that executive session. He noted the Board met in conference session on the morning of Feb 16th and received a variety of informational updates on Penn

State's health enterprise, strategic initiatives related to President's Bendapudi's University Road map for the future, philanthropy and Penn State's upcoming campaign, and the Governor's budget. He acknowledged the Board received twenty-three public comments expressing support for Penn State Commonwealth Campuses and budgetary concerns. Submitted comments are available on the Board's website.

Shannon Harvey, Assistant Vice President/University Secretary, reported all Trustees were present except for Trustees Gursahaney and Redding, constituting a quorum.

### **Consent Agenda Action Items**

Chair Schuyler noted that there were three Consent Agenda Action Items for consideration before the Board. Motions to approve Consent Agenda Action Items 3.a., 3.b., and 3.c. were put forward by Trustee Lubrano, seconded by Trustee Potts, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**3.a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2023 Meeting**

**3.b. Approval of 2025 Dates for Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

Will the Board of Trustees approve the proposed meeting dates for 2025 as follows. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at University Park.

February 20-21, 2025 (Thursday-Friday)  
May 8-9, 2025 (Thursday-Friday)  
July 17-18, 2025 (Thursday-Friday) – Penn State Abington  
September 11-12, 2025 (Thursday-Friday)  
November 6-7, 2025 (Thursday-Friday)

**3.c. Approval of University Park Airport name change to State College Regional Airport**

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State University, a state-related institution and instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the "University"), is the owner of the University Park Airport (the "Airport"), and is authorized to operate it as a certificated airport under the requirements of Title 49 USC, Subtitle VII-Aviation Program, and the rules, regulations and standards prescribed thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the University, along with the Centre County Airport Authority (the "CCAA"), has requested that the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") approve a change in the name of the Airport from the "University Park Airport, State College, PA" to the "State College Regional Airport" (such change hereinafter referred to as the "Airport Name Change").

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Airport Name Change be, and hereby is, approved, ratified and declared advisable and in the best interest of the University; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that any and all actions previously taken by any of the officers, employees or representatives of the University, for and on behalf and in the name of the University, in connection with the Airport Name Change, including, without limitation, any applications, filings or reports previously filed by the University with the FAA, are hereby authorized, ratified, confirmed, and approved in all respects for all purposes; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the President, the Senior Vice President for Finance & Business/Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of the University and the Director of the Airport (each, an "Authorized Officer," and collectively, the "Authorized Officers"), be, and each of them with full authority to act without others hereby is, authorized and directed, in the name and on behalf of the University, to prepare, negotiate, execute, file, deliver, and perform any applications, filings, reports, certificates, agreements, letters,

consents, instruments, amendments, or other documents as any of the Authorized Officers may deem necessary, advisable or appropriate to obtain the approval of the Airport Name Change by the FAA, or by any other required governmental authority, agency or department, or to otherwise complete the Airport Name Change, the negotiation, preparation, execution, filing, delivery, or performance thereof by the Authorized Officers to be conclusive evidence of the approval thereof by the University; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that each Authorized Officer is authorized to cause the University to pay any and all reasonable and necessary costs, expenses and fees arising in connection the approval of the Airport Name Change or the completion of the Airport Name Change.

### **Other Agenda Action Items**

Chair Schuyler noted each Action item would be appropriately considered after Trustees heard the respective Committee Chair's report.

### **Reports from Standing Committees**

Chair Schuyler called for reports from the Standing Committees. Any action item considered and voted on in the Committee was included in reports by the respective Committee chairs. The full Board was asked to consider Committee recommendations at the conclusion of each report.

#### **A. Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life**

Chair Wagman reported that a quorum of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life met on Thursday, January 18, 2024, unanimously approved the October 19, 2023 meeting minutes, and hosted an enrollment updated by Matt Melvin, Vice President for Enrollment Management, a presentation on Commonwealth Campus academic programs and enrollment by Dr. Margo DelliCarpini, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses and Executive Chancellor, and a substantive overview of College of Medicine research enterprise and growth opportunities by Dr. Karen Kim, Dean at Penn State College of Medicine.

The next meeting of the Committee on AARSL is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 224 at 9:15 a.m., including agenda topics of Commonwealth Campus retention and graduation rates and a discussion on how to grow the research enterprise by focusing on the areas where Penn State is (or can be) a leader in higher education, including partnering with other leading universities.

There were no action items presented to the Board.

#### **B. Committee on Audit and Risk**

Chair Black reported that a quorum of the Committee on Audit and Risk met on Thursday, February 15, 2024, unanimously approved the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes, and reviewed the continuing engagement of Plante Moran as the external auditor to perform the audits and other engagements of the University, Penn State Health, and other entities for the fiscal year 2024. The Committee also received an Information Technology and Security update, an annual summary of internal audit hotline activity, and an update on the enterprise risk management plan and NCAA procedures. The Committee also met in executive session with management, the Plante Moran representatives, and individually with Penn State's new director of internal audit Eric Miller.

The next meeting of the Committee on Audit and Risk is scheduled for May 2, 2024.

There were no action items presented to the Board.

#### **C. Committee on Equity and Human Resources**

Chair Schneider reported that in support of President Bendapudi's goal of fostering Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) across all Penn State campuses, and the Committee's goal to review student enrollment and demographic trends on national and state levels, as well as best practices in higher education related to DEIB initiatives, a quorum of the Committee on Equity and Human Resources met on Thursday, January 18, 2024, approved the October 19, 2023 meeting minutes, and took updates from Lance Kennedy-Phillips, Vice Provost for Planning, Assessment, and Institutional Research on the university's public Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Dashboard. The Committee was also briefed by Duane Elmore, Penn State University Finance and Business Chief Procurement Officer on the university's structure and processes for fostering relationships with diverse business enterprises, a five-year look at the university's diversity spend (total and by supplier type), and success stories, opportunities and challenges to increase diverse supplier utilization.

The next meeting of the Committee on Equity and Human Resources will occur on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. with an agenda of a review and update on talent management and succession planning practices aimed at positioning Penn State as the "employer of choice" in the communities in which it operates.

There were no action items presented to the Board.

**D. Subcommittee on Compensation**

Chair Schneider reported a quorum of the Subcommittee on Compensation met on Feb 15, 2024, unanimously approved the December 1 and December 19, 2023 meeting minutes, considered Action Item 4.d.1. in executive session, and unanimously recommended its approval for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

**4.d.1. Presidential Compensation**

The Operating Guidelines for the Subcommittee on Compensation provide that on an annual basis the Subcommittee on Compensation will recommend to the Board of Trustees, based upon an evaluation of performance goals and objectives, changes to the President's annual compensation, including salary and incentive compensation if applicable.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Compensation has reviewed the Presidential performance goals and objectives as well as market and equity considerations; and

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Compensation recommends annually to the Board of Trustees consideration of salary adjustments to the President's salary based upon the President's performance in light of established goals and objectives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approves the salary terms as set forth in the Presidential Term Sheet for Neeli Bendapudi as recommended by the Subcommittee on Compensation and presented to the Board of Trustees in executive session.

Chair Schuyler requested a motion to approve Action Item 4.d.1., which was put forward by Trustee Potts, seconded by Trustee Schneider, and approved by the Board. Trustee Fenchak opposed the motion. Chair Schuyler noted a public announcement would be published with information regarding Presidential compensation.

**E. Committee on Finance, Business and Capital Planning**

Chair Fenza reported that a quorum of the Committee on Finance, Business, and Capital Planning met on Thursday, February 15, 2024, and approved the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Additional reports on operational efficiencies, optimized service teams, second quarter

financial results, auxiliary and business services financial and capital projects updates, College of Medicine and Penn State Health financial updates, Intercollegiate Athletics, financial and capital projects update, investment performance and benchmarking key financial ratios, and the capital plan and borrowing report were made available to Trustees.

The Committee considered and unanimously approved three action items, which are items 4.e.1., 4.e.2., and 4.e.3. on the Board's agenda. Sara Thorndike, Senior Vice President for Finance & Business/Treasurer, provided remarks and context for each item.

**4.e.1. Proposed Naming of the Chemistry Building, "Benkovic Building" University Park**

The Facilities and Academic Unit Naming Committee has recommended that the Board of Trustees name the Chemistry Building at University Park the "Benkovic Building" in honor of Dr. Stephen J. Benkovic. Stephen Benkovic, PhD, retired in 2008 after serving on Penn State's faculty for 48 years. He is a highly decorated scientist and an Atherton Professor whose work defined the field of bio-organic chemistry and set the stage for its rapid development. A selection of awards and fellowships Benkovic has received includes the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship (1968-74), NIH Career Development Award (1969-74), Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Nakanishi Prize (2005). In 2009, he received the National Medal of Science from President Barack Obama. He has also been elected to memberships in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and most recently was elected Foreign Member of the Royal Society (2021). The Benkovic Building will stand out among these notable figure heads of chemistry who are recognized by Penn State.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Chemistry Building at University Park be named "Benkovic Building."

Chair Schuyler requested a motion to approve Action Item 4.e.1., which was put forward by Trustee Hoffman, seconded by Trustee Schneider, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**4.e.2. Proposed Authorization to Expend Funds, Physics Building and Osmond Laboratory Renovation, University Park**

The University intends to renovate a portion of the Osmond Laboratory and construct a 48,000 square foot addition above a renovated basement in support of the Physics Department. The renovations will include specialized physics research lab spaces. The addition will add a high-bay research facility that provides space for large-scale instrument assembly and testing allowing for the safe movement of large research equipment. The lecture hall renovations will include fixing structural issues, new seating, new finishes, and classroom technology.

This project will address specific deferred maintenance in Osmond Lab. The project also includes construction of a regional stormwater management detention structure that will improve current runoff issues at the site and meet regulatory requirements.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the Physics Building and Osmond Laboratory Renovation at University Park, as designed by ZGF Architects, LLP of Washington, DC is approved.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That authorization to expend funds and award contracts to accomplish the project is approved in the amount of \$115,000,000.

Chair Schuyler requested a motion to approve Action Item 4.e.2., which was put forward by Trustee Wagman, seconded by Trustee Riegel, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**4.e.3. Proposed Real Estate Divestiture at 505 East Wopsonnock Avenue, Penn State Altoona**

The University proposes to dispose of approximately 0.1377 acres at 505 East Wopsonnock Avenue, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania, which includes a 2,014 square foot single family residence. The property was originally a gift via Bargain Sale from Athleen Stere, with the cash portion of the \$50k sales price provided by John and Alice Joyce. The original intended use was as housing for visiting scholars, however after beginning renovations, adverse environmental conditions were discovered, and that remediation quickly exhausted the renovation budget available. After environmental remediation was complete, the renovations stalled, and the property has since remained vacant for 10 years. It is now the goal of the Campus to sell the property and repurpose those funds into another gift fund consistent with the original donors' intentions.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approves the sale of approximately 0.1377 acres and all improvements located at 505 East Wopsonnock Avenue, City of Altoona, and County of Blair, Pennsylvania, to Mark Gasbarro, in the amount of \$111,000.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That the Officers of the University are authorized and directed to execute and deliver any agreements, deeds, instruments or other documents and to take such other actions as are necessary to make effective this resolution.

Chair Schuyler requested a motion to approve Action Item 4.e.3., which was put forward by Trustee Wagman, seconded by Trustee Schneider, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**F. Committee on Governance and Long-Range Planning**

Chair Potts reported that a quorum of the Committee on Governance and Long-Range Planning met on January 18, 2024, unanimously approved the September 7, 2023 meeting minutes, discussed budget reporting and the 2023 Board of Trustees Skills & Demographics Report, and outlined the status of the Governance Working Group.

There were no action items presented to the Board.

**G. Committee on Legal and Compliance**

Chair de Levie reported that a quorum of the Legal and Compliance Committee met on Thursday, January 18, 2024 in public and executive/conference sessions, approved the October 19, 2023 meeting minutes, and considered proposed annual applications, renewals, and other filings required by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. Tabitha Oman, Vice President and General Counsel, supplied the Committee context and background regarding the annual approval of applications for renewal of the universities various liquor licenses and an update on Compliance Centers for Excellence. The Committee unanimously approved proposed Action Item 4.g.1. for consideration by the Board of Trustees. Chair de Levie noted in an executive session conducted under section 708 of the Sunshine law, the Committee also received an update on privileged matters including Zack K. De Piero v. The Pennsylvania State University, et al., The Pennsylvania State University v. Wyatt Massey and Spotlight PA as well as compliance reporting and the intersection of Title VI and the First Amendment.

**4.g.1. Proposed Annual Applications, Renewals and Other Filings Required by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board**

The Pennsylvania State University holds licenses and permits through the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) for the following purposes, venues, and properties, as previously approved by the Board of Trustees:

- Wine Auction Permits in connection with fundraising activities of WPSU, the Palmer Museum of Art, and such other academic or administrative units as may be approved by the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer, in consultation with the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations
- Bryce Jordan Center – Public Venue Liquor License and Off-Premise Catering Permit
- Beaver Stadium – Public Venue Liquor License
- Recreation Hall – Public Venue Liquor License
- Pegula Ice Arena – Public Venue Liquor License
- Medlar Field at Lubrano Park – Public Venue Liquor License
- Penn State Golf Courses – Public Venue Liquor License

Each license or permit requires either an application process, a biennial application renewal process, or an annual validation process.

Will the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Liquor Code authorizes the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to issue various licenses and permits related to the sale and service of alcoholic beverages, subject to a well-defined set of regulations; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of The Pennsylvania State University to sell and serve alcoholic beverages under the conditions previously approved by the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of The Pennsylvania State University to file appropriate applications for licensures and permits either through an application processes, biennial application renewal processes, or a validation process, as applicable; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Sara F. Thorndike, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer or any appropriate designee(s), is/are authorized to execute applications, renewal forms, and any other documents or instruments required by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, and to take such other actions as may be required in connection with any such applications, renewals or validations; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That material changes to the terms and conditions previously approved by the Board of Trustees with respect to such licenses and permits shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its consideration and approval.

Chair Schuyler called for a motion to approve Action Item 4.g.1., which was put forward by Trustee Potts, seconded by Trustee de Levie, and unanimously approved by the Board.

#### **H. Committee on Outreach, Development, and Community Relations**

Chair Sokolov reported that a quorum of the Outreach, Development and Community Relations Committee met on Thursday, January 18, 2023, approved the October 19, 2023 meeting minutes, and received updates against goal metrics from the Alumni Association, Development, Government Relations, Outreach, and World Campus. The Committee also received an update from Strategic Communications on efforts to strengthen the University's reputation for academic, research, and service excellence in support of President Bendapudi's vision and priorities for the University.

The next meeting of the Committee on Outreach, Development, and Community Relations is scheduled for March 21, 2024 with agenda topics featuring an update from David Lieb on the status of the university-wide campaign priorities, the build-out of the campaign infrastructure, and the Pipeline Engagement Project along with an update on Alumni Association activities and programs focused on connecting alumni and alumni chapters to the University.

There were no action items presented to the Board.

### **President's Report**

President Bendapudi thanked Trustees for their support, guidance, and commitment to her leadership team and Penn State university. She noted THON embodies Penn State's spirit, excellence, greatness, and impact at-scale. She thanked Will Vincent, dancers, and supporters for their hard work on this year's THON weekend. She lauded Penn State's national leadership in the selection of twelve faculty Fullbright Scholars, a tribute to the global impact of Penn State higher education. She cited the staff, graduate students, and researchers that greatly contributed to the success of the university's land grant educational mission. She expressed gratitude Trustees for their approval of a two-year budget, which gives Penn State a long-term timeline to position for success, communicating the university's needs to the Governor, legislators, and stakeholders to serve Pennsylvania students get a world-class degree close to home. She said a budgetary model to chart a sustainable future, compensation modernization, a DEIB dashboard, enrollment trend analysis, and support for research and commercialization makes Penn State affordable, accessible, and competitive to students as a solid return on their educational investment. She highlighted Dr. Joyce Jose, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, on her leadership of a research team awarded a \$6 million grant to study how the Zika virus transmits from mothers to fetuses to prevent future outbreaks. She noted Penn State is participating in a multi-state collaboration funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission to better model and test smart power grids for rural communities. She introduced Robert L. Sainburg, PhD, Dorothy F. and J. Lloyd Huck Distinguished Chair in Kinesiology and Neurology, Director of the Center for Movement and Technology, Professor of Kinesiology and of Neurology, and Candice Maenza, PhD, Neurorehabilitation Laboratory Manager, Penn State College of Medicine, who shared their cutting-edge stroke rehabilitation research in collaboration Penn State College of Medicine and the opportunities for students working in their lab with the Board.

### **Closing Remarks**

Trustee Lubrano put forward a resolution proposing the Penn State Board of Trustees declare Joe and Sue Paterno Day, at a date and time to be decided in Fall 2024, and the Beaver Stadium football field be named Paterno Field, which was seconded by Trustee de Levie. Trustee Paterno provided remarks regarding the resolution.

The entirety of Trustee Lubrano's comments are as follows:

"1983 was a watershed year for Penn State both athletically and academically. On January 1st, our beloved Nittany Lions defeated the Georgia Bulldogs 27-23 to claim its first National Championship in football. But something else happened that year that would set the course for us to become who WE ARE today. On January 22, 1983, just days after the victory in the Sugar Bowl, Penn State held its regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting and Joe Paterno was invited to speak. His message that day speaks to the profound impact of Paterno as an academic visionary. Most people were expecting him to ask for more funding for football resources or to talk about the successful season. Instead, Paterno delivered a speech critical of the Board's reactionary and conservative governing style and pushed the Trustees to launch a serious fundraising campaign to strengthen academic units and bring in world class professors. It was a bold move for a football coach - at his first Board meeting ever no less - to call out his bosses to use the momentum from football's recent success to build a better university. This speech led to "The Campaign for Penn State" and the fundraising excellence we have today. Some might ask, why look back now at such a groundbreaking speech more than 40 years ago? Fair question. Earlier today the Board approved a resolution to name the Chemistry Building after Dr. Stephen Benkovic, an Evan Pugh Professor and Eberly Chair in Chemistry, who is known for his major contributions that have impacted our understanding of biological processes. Dr. Benkovic served Penn State for 48 years. This recognition seems well-deserved. Since my return to this Board in July, 2020, I have urged the Administration and Trustees to meaningfully recognize the innumerable contributions of Joe and Sue Paterno to our great school. Sue turned 84 just two days ago. If you visit Joe Paterno's gravesite, you'll find these words from Robert Browning on his headstone. "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" Joe Paterno was an educator first, and a football coach second. WE were incredibly blessed to enjoy the benefits of his visionary thinking, and all of us in this room should be immensely proud of the culture that his thinking helped to create. Joe Paterno's contributions to this University can never be erased and he will never be forgotten. So, my fellow Trustees, we have reached the moment of truth. Are we going to honor two people who have literally given their lives in the pursuit of a better Penn State or are we going to allow fearmongering to prevail? At this moment, I am reminded of the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. On March 4, 1933, the country was almost 3 ½ years into what became known as the Great Depression. History will note that on that date FDR was sworn in as the

country's 32nd President. His inaugural address to the nation was noteworthy for its reference to the memorable phrase: "...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..." But most people don't know the words that follow: "...nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." Fear mongering. We have an opportunity to fulfill our mission of teaching, research and service by using this as a teachable moment. So let us do what is right and just by significantly and meaningfully honoring Sue and Joe Paterno for their lifetime contributions of time, talent and treasure to this University. With that, Mr. Chairman, I offer the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION:**  
**Suzanne P. Paterno and Joseph V Paterno Day**  
**and**  
**Paterno Field at Beaver Stadium**  
**February 16, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the humanitarian and philanthropic activities of Sue and Joe Paterno are well documented, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Paternos worked to enhance the academic stature of Penn State by uniting students, alumni, faculty and staff around accomplishments on and off-the-field, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Paternos generously donated to the University for scholarships, The Paterno Libraries, the All-Sports Museum, the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, and endowed faculty positions and building projects, and;

**WHEREAS**, Joe will be remembered, not just as a coach, but as one who, together with Sue, his teammate in life, made Penn State a better place, and;

**WHEREAS**, Joe Paterno served as an Assistant Football Coach for 16 years, as Athletic Director for 2 years, and as Head Football Coach for 46 years, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Experiment, as it came to be known, was Joe Paterno's unique philosophy to treat athletics as inseparable from academics, and;

**WHEREAS**, more than 80% of Joe Paterno's players graduated and the environment he inspired created a graduation rate gap of ZERO between black and white players, and;

**WHEREAS**, Joe Paterno is the most successful NCAA Major College Football Coach with a record of 409 wins, 5 undefeated teams, 2 National Championships, a combined 27 Eastern and Big Ten titles, 23 top ten teams and 35 top twenty-five teams, and bowl records of 37 total games with 24 wins, was named AFCA National Coach of the Year a record 5 times, and was enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame in 2007, and;

**WHEREAS**, Joe Paterno coached 78 First-Team All-Americans, 47 Academic All Americans, 16 National Football Foundation National Scholar-Athletes, more than 300 future NFL players, 12 College Football Hall of Famers as well as 3 National Football League Hall of Famers, and;

**WHEREAS**, in Joe Paterno's only address to the Board of Trustees, after Penn State's first national championship, he challenged Trustees to make the most of that "magic moment" and focus on our academic shortcomings and enhance our cultural diversity, and;

**WHEREAS**, even after Joe's death, Sue continues with steadfast commitment to the University she loves as evidenced by her work with the University Libraries, the Paterno's Fellows Program, the Student Care & Advocacy Emergency Fund, and;

**WHEREAS**, few embody the essence of the Penn State Alma Mater like Sue Paterno as demonstrated by her philanthropic activities including her oversight of the Beaver Stadium Run for Special Olympics, an organization formed to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Penn State Board of Trustees would like to fittingly recognize the many contributions of Sue and Joe Paterno;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Penn State Board of Trustees declare Joe and Sue Paterno Day, at a date and time to be decided, in the fall of 2024 and the field named Paterno Field at Beaver Stadium at that time.

Trustee Lubrano then made a motion to withdraw the resolution, seconded by Trustee Schneider.

Chair Schuyler noted the next public meeting of the Board will be on Friday, May 3rd, 2024 at University Park.

There being no other business, the public meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon S. Harvey  
University Secretary, Board of Trustees