A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was held in Room Crystal A of the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA, at 8:00 a.m. on February 25, 2016.

The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present: Vice Chair Allie Goldstein, David Han, Ryan McCombie, Luke Metaxas, Alice Pope, and Kay Salvino.

The following staff members were present: Nick Jones, Rob Pangborn, Damon Sims, and Ann Wyatt. University Park Undergraduate Association President Emily McDonald and Faculty Senate Chair-elect James Strauss were present. Also invited as panelists were student representatives John Gilbert, Zico Khayat, Genevieve Logerie, Pavel Shusharin, and Jorge Zurita-Coronado; and faculty representatives Wanda Knight and Robert Loeb.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Goldstein at 8:03 a.m. The Minutes of the November 19, 2015 were approved.

Vice Chair Goldstein called on Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs, who provided updates from the Office of Student Affairs. Sims reported on the Fraternity and Sorority Life Task Force; the Bystander intervention Program; Counseling and Psychological Services; Title IX progress; and issues of significance identified by the Student Leaders Roundtable.

Vice Chair Goldstein then called on Rob Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education for his report. Pangborn updated the Committee about the ongoing rollout of LionPATH software releases, the migration to the Starfish advising platform, and the Canvas learning management system. Additionally, he provided an update on admissions for the class of 2020; Provost’s Awards; and the transition to a new admissions and outreach recruiting center at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

UPUA President Emily McDonald provided an update on the student fee board, and recent student government legislative outreach initiatives.

Student and faculty panelists reflected on diversity and inclusion experiences as members of the Penn State Community, stressing the need for the continuation of important conversations, increased personal connections, and the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion in all of its forms. Participants included John Gilbert, a student and President of the LGBTQ+ Student Roundtable; Wanda Knight, Associate Professor of Arts Education and Women's Studies and Chair of the Forum on Black Affairs; Zico Khayat, a student in the Eberly College of Science, and President of the Muslim Student Association; Robert Loeb, a Professor of Biology and Forestry at Penn State DuBois and Vice Chair of the Educational Equity and Campus Environment Committee of the Faculty Senate; Genevieve Logerie, a student in the College of the Liberal Arts and President of the Black Caucus; Pavel Shusharin, a student of Mechanical Engineering and Administrative Director of the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments; and Jorge Zurita-Coronado, a student in the College of the Liberal Arts and Vice President for External Affairs of the Latino Caucus.
Nick Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost, deferred his remarks until the next meeting of the Committee.

Trustee Alice Pope reported that the Committee working group is continuing its development of Operating Guidelines and deferred her progress report, citing that the final draft of the report may be available for discussion at the May meeting of the Committee.

The public session of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

No Executive Session of the Committee was required.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Wyatt
Administrative Support Coordinator
Office of the Board of Trustees