THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE AND LONG-RANGE PLANNING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VOLUME GLRP 18  
February 25, 2016  

A meeting of the Committee on Governance and Long-Range Planning of the Board of Trustees was held in Wild Rose AB, The Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Rick Dandrea, Barbara Doran, Keith Eckel, David Han, Chris Hoffman, Betsy Huber, Anthony Lubrano, Keith Masser and Daniel Mead. Trustee Emeritus Carl Shaffer was also present.

Staff members in attendance were: Frank Guadagnino, Nicholas Jones, Lance Kennedy-Phillips and Tom Poole.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eckel at 3:15 p.m.

Chair Eckel opened the meeting with a review of the January 2016 Board Retreat, saying that it was a reflective and productive opportunity for all and laid the groundwork for individual commitment that issues and priorities focused upon should be in alignment with the mission of Penn State and deliberated in a unified spirit of collegiality. He also mentioned that in the future, the Committee should get periodic updates on the healthcare enterprise and strategic direction of healthcare within the University. Chair Eckel also reported that he had the opportunity to meet with John Nichols, former faculty Senate Chair who led the Senate’s Special Committee on Governance. Lance Kennedy-Phillips, Vice Provost for Planning and Assessment was welcomed and the Committee will look forward to working with Lance to provide input, thought and considerations.

Chair Eckel then called for a motion for the Committee to approve the Minutes from the November 19, 2015 and January 4, 2016 meetings. Both motions were put forward, seconded and carried unanimously.

While Agenda Item 4 was not timely for the current cycle, Chair Eckel brought forth a suggestion by Trustee Doran to have the Committee do an annual assessment of identifying skill sets and diversity needs for the Board and share it with the various trustee selection committees.

Trustee Mead suggested, and Provost Jones agreed, that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive periodic updates on the implementation and ongoing progress for tracking of the strategic plan. It was also noted that feedback was received from both the Academic Leadership Council and Faculty Senate on the inclusive and collaborative approach that was taken in facilitating the development of the plan to include broad engagement and input. Chair Eckel reminded the Committee of their 7-2 vote to approve the plan on January 4, and while it is not technically required, the motion included the plan being provided to the full Board for its concurrence.
One of the suggestions that came out of the January retreat was to revisit the Board's Expectations of Membership. Expectations were reviewed one by one, and discussion occurred. Frank Guadagnino will synthesize the comments and prepare a revised, annotated version for further discussion at the May meeting. Trustee McCombie, Chair of the Outreach, Development and Community Relations Committee spoke about the current operating guidelines and the future of the committee. More discussion will continue at the May meetings.

Discussions continued about the format for Board meetings, the level and type of information shared and how that information is presented, and the time allotments for our various meetings within the Board cycle. Exploration of different ways to approach committee meetings, the Board agenda and the Board meeting to determine how best to share information in an efficient manner and at the same time, provide adequate time for board members to engage in strategic and “generative” discussions will continue. Trustees will be asked to submit thoughts and ideas on this subject to the Board Office.

A motion was put forward, seconded and approved to accept the Operating Guidelines of the Governance and Long-Range Planning Committee with the proposed amendment to Item #7.

A revision of the Bylaws, section 5.09, pertaining to what goes before the Board for approval will be presented to the full Board at the May meeting.

A report was available regarding expenses for the September 2015 and November 2015 Board of Trustees meetings, as well as a comparative expenditure report.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Penkala
Associate Director, Board of Trustees