

**Table of Contents**  
**Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees**

|   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| ORDER I. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES BY ALUMNI.....   | 1           |
| ORDER II. SELECTION GROUP ON BOARD MEMBERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND<br>INDUSTRY TRUSTEES .....   | 2           |
| ORDER III. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES BY AGRICULTURAL<br>DELEGATES .....   | 3           |
| ORDER IV. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS<br>OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ITS STANDING COMMITTEES AND ITS<br>SPECIAL COMMITTEES ..... | 4           |
| ORDER V. GOVERNANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY .....   | 8           |
| ORDER VI. TRUSTEE EMERITUS .....  | 11          |

## STANDING ORDERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### **ORDER I. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES BY ALUMNI (see also *the Charter and the Bylaws*)**

- (1) Date of Election. Elections for alumni members of the Board of Trustees shall be held each year on the day preceding the annual Commencement, under the direction of two judges annually appointed for that purpose by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and may be held either in connection with the Delegate Convention for the election of other members of the Board, or at such other hour of the same day, and such other place, as the Chair of the Board of Trustees may from time to time direct.
- (2) Nominations. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees, or such other officer as may be from time to time designated by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, shall send to each qualified elector as established in the Charter, whose email address is known a notice stating the date at which the next election will be held and the names of alumni trustees whose terms will expire by law on the thirtieth day of June next following. Such notice shall be sent each year not less than ninety days preceding the date on which such election is to be held, and shall invite nominations for vacancies then to occur. All persons who are nominated by as many as fifty electors shall be announced as soon as practical after the tenth day of April each year in a circular sent to all electors, with a form of ballot.
- (3) Form of Ballot. Only the official nominating and voting ballots may be used to nominate and vote for candidates.
- (4) Position on Ballot. Immediately after the last day fixed for depositing ballots to nominate candidates for alumni trustee, the Chair of the Board of Trustees shall fix a day and hour for casting lots for the position of names upon the election ballots. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall give at least three days' notice of said date and hour to all candidates nominated. Any candidate may appear in person or by a representative duly authorized in writing. In the event that any candidate is not present in person or by duly authorized representative at the time of casting of lots, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to appoint some person to represent such absentee. After said lots are cast, the Secretary shall accordingly establish the order in which the names of said candidates are to appear on the election ballot.
- (5) Designation of Incumbents. Incumbents shall not be identified as such on election ballots, but—biographical sketches shall identify incumbents with an asterisk.
- (6) Position in Booklet of Biographical Sketches. Candidates' names shall be in alphabetical order In any publication of biographical sketches.

- (7) Duplicate Ballots. A duplicate ballot may be issued to a voter only on a written or personal application to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees stating that the original ballot has been lost, mutilated, or destroyed.
- (8) Deadline for Receipt of Nominations. Ballots for the nomination of alumni trustees must be received at the office of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees before 5:00 p.m., February 25.
- (9) Candidate May Withdraw Name. Each candidate nominated shall be given the privilege of withdrawing his/her name.
- (10) Election Returns. All ballots for alumni trustees returned to the proper official in response to said circular and received by him/her on or before the day of election shall be safely kept by him/her, and by him/her delivered at the time and place of election to the two judges selected by the Chair of the Board of Trustees and shall by them be counted as cast at that time and place. Said judges shall make return to the Board of Trustees of the persons for whom ballots have been cast, either by letter or by electors in person, with the number of votes for each person; and the Board of Trustees shall thereupon determine and declare what persons have been elected to fill the vacancies aforesaid. A plurality of votes only shall be required to elect and, in case of an equality of votes between two or more candidates, the person or persons who shall hold said office or offices of trustee shall be designated by ballot of the Board of Trustees.
- (11) Announcement of Results. The names of the winning candidates in the election shall be given publicity in the public press. The names of all candidates and the number of votes received by each shall be made available for publication.
- (12) Electronic Notices and Voting. In order to be good stewards of the limited financial resources of the University, electronic mail may be used to communicate any required notices or other correspondence under this Order I and an electronic balloting and voting process may be used so long as reasonable accommodations are made to permit any qualified elector without access to electronic mail to participate in the election.

**ORDER II. SELECTION GROUP ON BOARD MEMBERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TRUSTEES (see also *the Charter and the Bylaws*)**

The Selection Group on Board Membership for Business and Industry Trustees shall be composed of five members (three seated Trustees representing business and industry endeavors excepting those standing for reelection; and two trustees from among those elected by the alumni, elected by agricultural associations, or appointed by the Governor). The selection group shall be appointed annually by the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the purpose of recommending, in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Trustees from time to time, two candidates for membership on the Board of Trustees representing business and industry endeavors. The names and qualifications of the candidates shall be submitted for confirmation by the Board of Trustees (approval or rejection of recommended candidates only).

### **ORDER III. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES BY AGRICULTURAL DELEGATES (see also *the Charter and the Bylaws*)**

The Charter of the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University provides for the election of six trustees who represent the organized Agricultural Societies or Associations in the Commonwealth.

- (1) **Date of Election.** Election for agricultural delegate members of the Board of Trustees shall be held each year on the Thursday prior to the day for the annual Commencement, under the direction of two judges annually appointed for that purpose by the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
- (2) **Delegates.** Agricultural societies are not entitled to send delegates unless they have been organized and in existence at least three months preceding the election, and have duly notified the University of this fact at least sixty days prior to the election. Each society is invited to send up to three delegates each to participate in the election. Societies shall endeavor to select delegates that reside in the county they represent. Employees of The Pennsylvania State University are not permitted to serve as delegates. The societies are to provide each delegate with appropriate credentials to present as proof of eligibility to vote on the day of the election. No proxies are permitted.
- (3) **Candidates.** Candidates must be an active member of an agricultural society. Individual candidates are invited to notify the Secretary of the Board of Trustees by February 25 of each year. The names of the candidates (along with a biographical sketch and position statement for each candidate, the agenda for the meeting, the governance provisions for the election, and the delegate credential cards for each organization) will be distributed to society secretaries in advance of the election in order to better inform agricultural society delegates.
- (4) **Nominations.** Nominations will be required for all trustee candidates on the day of the election. Nominations of additional candidates not included in the election mailing are also permitted.
- (5) **Registration.** Registration of delegates is required on the day of the election. Delegates must present a valid Credential/Registration card, and can be registered as a delegate in one organization/county only.
- (6) **Eligibility and Voting.** Only those delegates in attendance and duly registered are permitted to participate in the election and voting. The following provisions also apply:
  - (i) Each county is permitted a maximum of three votes each for the candidates.
  - (ii) If a county is represented by more than three delegates, a caucus is required to determine the three from their number who will represent the county.

(iii) If fewer than three delegates represent a county, the county is permitted only as many votes as there are delegates.

- (7) Announcement of Results. The names of the winning candidates in the election shall be given publicity in the public press. The names of all candidates and the number of votes received by each shall be made available for publication.

**ORDER IV. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ITS STANDING COMMITTEES AND ITS SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- (1) Meetings Open to the Public. A meeting of the Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees shall be open to the public as required by applicable law.
- (2) Annual Public Notice of All Meetings. Public notice of the date, time, and place of all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees for the calendar year shall be published annually in all daily newspapers of general circulation published in Centre County, and in at least one daily newspaper of general circulation in Pennsylvania. Such notice for meetings at locations other than University Park shall be published in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the political subdivision in which such meetings are to be held. Notice of all regularly scheduled meetings shall also be posted on the University's website at the same time as such notice is published in the newspaper.
- (3) Public Notice of Individual Meetings. Public notice of the date, time, and place of each regular meeting shall be given and published in the daily newspapers of general circulation as indicated above, at least three days prior to the time of each regularly scheduled meeting, and at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of the meeting in the case of special or rescheduled meetings. This provision shall not apply in case of a meeting called to deal with an emergency involving a clear and present danger to life or property. Notice of all special meetings shall also be posted on the University's website at the same time as such notice is published in the newspaper. .
- (4) Posting of Notices. Public notice of all meetings of the Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees shall be posted at the offices of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees at University Park, Pennsylvania.
- (5) News Media Notices. Notice of the date, time, and place of meetings shall be furnished on request to any newspaper publishing in the political subdivision in which the meeting will be held and to any radio and television station which regularly broadcasts into the political subdivision (Centre County in the case of meetings at University Park).

- (6) Notice to Others. Notice of meetings shall also be furnished to anyone providing a stamped, self-addressed envelope prior to the meeting.
- (7) Meeting Room. Except for telephonic meetings, meetings of the Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees shall be held in a room large enough to accommodate the members of the Board of Trustees, officers of the University, and invited guests. Space shall also be available for up to twenty-five visitors, including representatives of the news media, on a first-come, first-served basis. The room will be opened one-half hour prior to the starting time of the meeting.
- (8) Arrangements for News Media Area and Press Conferences. An area in the meeting room shall be designated by the University for use by the press and other news media, subject to such rules and regulations as the University may adopt. To further facilitate communications between the Board and the public, the Chair of the Board of Trustees and/or the President of the University shall hold press conferences as necessary following meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- (9) Visitors to the Meetings. Visitors to the meetings, including representatives of the news media, shall be present as observers, and not as participants. Any form of participation including speaking, the presentation of petitions, and the display of banners, posters, and other forms of signs is prohibited. This rule does not apply to guests invited by the Chair of the Board of Trustees or the President of the University.
  - (a) The Chair of the Board of Trustees or the President of the University shall be authorized to invite non-voting faculty representatives, non-voting student representatives or other constituent representatives to attend and participate in the meetings of standing committees, subcommittees, and of special committees, except executive sessions. The representatives shall be selected by the Chair of the Board of Trustees in such manner as he/she deems appropriate.
  - (b) The Board of Trustees welcomes the opportunity for expression of public views on issues before the Board. To accommodate such expression, the Board shall reserve a portion of its regular meeting for individuals who wish to address the Board. All persons wishing to speak must preregister by completing a Request to Address form and submit it to the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees no later than 48 hours before the start of the meeting (typically, Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m., 48 hours before Friday meeting at 1:30 p.m.). The Secretary of the Board of Trustees will review this request and notify the person making the request whether he/she may give public comment at the next meeting. The Board will allow up to thirty minutes for public comment/questions per meeting. An individual speaker will be permitted up to three minutes for a presentation. This will be strictly adhered to with assistance of a timekeeper. Thus, a maximum of ten speakers will be scheduled for each Board meeting.

When the number of requests to address the Board of Trustees at a given session exceeds the time available, requests will be approved based on the date the written request was received by the Secretary of the Board. In addition, preference will be given to subject matters that relate to the agenda for the relevant Board meeting and to avoid repetitiveness. Finally, the Board will not hear presentations or entertain questions on the following topics: issues under negotiation as part of the University's collective bargaining process; the employment status of any specific individual; statements concerning the private activities, lifestyles or beliefs of individuals employed by or associated with the University; grievances of individual students or employees; proposals or bids for contracts; or pending or threatened litigation involving the University.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees shall have the authority to modify the provisions of this subsection (b) in his or her discretion to permit additional speakers, extend the public comment session and to make such other accommodations as may be necessary or advisable in his or her opinion to achieve the purposes of the public comment period.

- (10) Photographic and Recording Equipment. Visitors to the meeting, including representatives of the news media, shall be allowed to use battery-operated audio tape recorders, television cameras and photographic equipment subject to the following regulations:
  - (a) A designated area in the meeting room shall be used by all visitors to the meeting using television cameras or photographic equipment.
  - (b) Television cameras and related equipment shall be allowed entry into the meeting room for set up purposes during the one-half hour period prior to the starting time of the morning and afternoon meetings. Television cameras and related equipment shall not be allowed entry into the meeting room after the starting time of the meeting, except during the course of a meeting recess, in which event entry will be permitted.
  - (c) Television cameras and photographic equipment shall be required to use available light during the meeting. Artificial lighting and flashes shall not be used during the meeting.
  - (d) No voice-over broadcasting shall be permitted during the meeting.
- (11) Procedures for Committee Meetings and Board Meetings. In conducting the business of the Board of Trustees, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees, the procedures for the meetings of the Standing Committees and the Special Committees shall provide for full discussion of both information and action items. Following discussion of action items, Standing Committees will vote to recommend an action to the Board of Trustees. Special committees recommend action to Standing Committees. The Board of Trustees meeting will

be devoted primarily to (a) taking formal action on committee recommendations as a block, with Board members having the opportunity to raise questions concerning any of the recommended action items and to call for a separate vote on a given item; (b) considering and acting upon matters which have not come to the Board through a Standing Committee; and (c) receiving the report of the President of the University. The vote of each member of the Board or of a committee on any resolution, rule, order, regulation, ordinance or the setting of official policy must be publicly cast and, in the case of a roll call vote, recorded. From time to time, the Board of Trustees, executive committee, standing committees and subcommittees may hold conferences, which need not be open to the public, for the purposes of providing training and information to Trustees on matters directly related to their official responsibilities; provided, however, that no “deliberations” (as defined in the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law) of University business may occur at a conference.

- (12) Agenda for the Meetings. The agenda and supporting material for the meetings of the Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees shall be available to the public (both in hard copy at the meeting and online) at the time of the meetings. In addition to making available to the public at the time of the meeting the agenda and supporting material, the University will make available five days in advance of the meeting an agenda of items to be considered with a note that the agenda of items is subject to change without notice prior to the meeting.
- (13) Executive Sessions of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees may hold an executive session as permitted by applicable law.
- (14) Maintaining Order. The presiding officer at public meetings of the Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees shall have the authority to maintain order during the public meeting. Any person who, in the opinion of the presiding officer, prevents, disturbs, or interrupts a public meeting may be requested to leave the public meeting, and, upon failure to comply, may be subject to forcible removal and/or arrest for violation of applicable law.
- (15) Minutes of Public Meetings. The minutes of public meetings of the Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee, its Standing Committees, and its Special Committees shall be available for inspection and copying during regular business hours at the office of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. A copy of minutes of public meetings shall be available to a member of the public upon payment of the reasonable cost of reproduction.
- (16) Revisions in the Rules and Regulations for Public Meetings. The Board of Trustees will periodically review the Rules and Regulations for the Conduct of Public Meetings and make such revisions as experience indicates are appropriate and desirable.



## ORDER V. GOVERNANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY

- (1) Role of the Board of Trustees in University Governance
  - (a) Guiding Policies. In the exercise of its responsibilities, the Board of Trustees shall be guided by the following policies:
    - (i) Delegation of authority. As set forth in the Bylaws, the authority for day-to-day management and control of the University, and the establishment of policies and procedures for the educational program and other operations of the University, is delegated to the President of the University, and by him or her either by delegation to or consultation with the faculty and the student body in accordance with a general directive of the Board of Trustees.
    - (ii) Advisor to the President. It is the duty of the Board of Trustees to advise the President on any University matter.
  - (b) Responsibility to Inform the Citizens of Pennsylvania. The Board of Trustees shall inform the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania of the University's performance of its role in the education of the youth of Pennsylvania.
  - (c) Responsibility for Development of Effective Relationships. The Board of Trustees shall assist the President in the development of effective relationships between the University and the various agencies of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America which provide to the University assistance and direction.
  - (d) Expectations of Membership. In exercising the responsibilities of trusteeship, the Board of Trustees is guided by the expectations of membership, each of which is equally important. It is expected that each Trustee will:
    - (i) Understand and support the University's mission, vision, and values;
    - (ii) Act in good faith at all times and in the best interests of the University in a non-partisan manner, without regard to the manner in which such Trustee was appointed or elected to the Board of Trustees;
    - (iii) Make the University a top philanthropic priority to the very best of one's personal ability and fulfill on a timely basis all financial obligations and pledges of support to the University;

- (iv) Prepare diligently, attend faithfully, and participate constructively in all Board of Trustees meetings and related activities by reading the agenda and supporting materials;
- (v) Speak openly, freely and candidly within the Board and publicly support decisions reached by the Board; it being recognized and understood that once the Board of Trustees, as the governing body of the University, makes a decision, it can be counterproductive and potentially damaging to the University for individual Trustees to publicly criticize or attempt to subvert such decision;
- (vi) Make decisions and instruct the administration collectively as the governing body of the University; it being recognized and understood that unless specifically authorized, no individual Trustee has the authority to act on his or her own on behalf of the University or the Board;
- (vii) Participate regularly in events that are integral parts of the life of the University community;
- (viii) Disclose promptly and fully any potential or actual conflicts of interest in accordance with the Board's conflict of interest policies, and personally maintain exemplary ethical standards;
- (ix) Refrain from requests of the President or staff for special consideration or personal prerogatives, including admissions, employment, and contracts for business;
- (x) Maintain the confidentiality of confidential information without exception; it being recognized and understood that for this purpose "confidential information" includes nonpublic information concerning the University, including its finances, operations and personnel, as well as nonpublic information about internal Board discussions and dynamics;
- (xi) Advocate the University's interests, but speak for the Board or the University only when authorized to do so by the Board or the Chair; it being recognized and understood that it is important for the Board of Trustees to convey a consistent message and that, in most instances, the Chair of the Board of Trustees should serve as the spokesperson;
- (xii) Respect University policies relating to the acquisition of information and communication; it being recognized and understood that all such information should be used only for purpose consistent with such Trustee's duties and responsibilities to the University; and

- (xiii) Extend goodwill to one another and to all members of the University community.

Regular attendance at meetings by members of the Board is expected. If a member of the Board is unable to attend at least four of the six scheduled meetings each year, such Board member should discuss with the Chair of the Board of Trustees the question of his or her ability to continue attendance appropriate to a Trustee.

- (e) Final Responsibility of the Board. The Board of Trustees is the final repository of all legal responsibility and authority to govern the University, under the laws of Pennsylvania. It can delegate but it cannot abandon this responsibility and authority. The Board has the responsibility and duty to direct all organizations and persons participating in governing the University, whether such participation be in the establishment of policies, rules, and regulations, or in the administration of such policies, rules, and regulations. In order to perform this responsibility and duty, and consistent with the Charter, the Board of Trustees hereby directs that governing of the University henceforth be conducted in accordance with the following general plan of organization.

(2) Internal Governance

- (a) What Internal Governance Is Concerned With. This plan of organization concerns only the internal governance of the University. It is not concerned with the operation of the Board of Trustees, with the functions of the officers of the corporation, or with the establishment of financial policy and fiscal and budgetary controls, which matters are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, the President, and the Treasurer in accordance with established policy.
- (b) Who Performed By. The internal governance of the University shall be performed by the President and his or her administration, by the faculty, and by the student body in accordance with the delegations of authority and advisory roles hereinafter set forth.

(3) Faculty

- (a) Responsibilities. The faculty, as appropriately organized, pursuant to delegation from the President, and subject to the revisions and orders of the President, shall establish policy concerning the approval and supervision of the instructional programs including courses and curricula, academic admissions standards, graduation requirements, and scholarships and honors.
- (b) Consultation by the President. The faculty shall be consulted by the President concerning student affairs, educational policy and planning,

academic personnel, and any other matter upon the request of the President.

- (c) Communication with the Board. Official faculty communication to the Board of Trustees shall be made through the President and through faculty participation on the standing committees.

(4) Student Body

- (a) Consultation by the President. The student body shall be consulted by the President concerning the establishment of policy for student affairs.
- (b) Communication with the Board. Official student communication to the Board of Trustees shall be made through the President and through student participation on the standing committees.
- (c) Participation in the Deliberations of the Faculty. Students may also participate in an appropriate manner in the deliberations of the faculty subject to the revisions and orders of the President.

**ORDER VI. TRUSTEE EMERITUS**

- (1) Granting the Status of Trustee Emeritus to Former Members of the Board. The status of Trustee Emeritus shall be reserved for any living former member of the Board of Trustees who has served as a board member for 12 years or more with distinction. The Chair of the Board shall request a review of the service of a Trustee upon retirement. Criteria to be considered by the committee shall include offices held, attendance record, participation in the activities of the Board, length of service, or other significant contributions. A trustee emeritus shall have none of the obligations of membership on the Board of Trustees (other than the expectations of membership set forth in Standing Order IV(1)(d)(i)- (iii), (v) and (viii) - (xiii)), but shall be entitled to all of the privileges except those of making motions, of voting and of holding office. Each former Chair of the Board of Trustees and any other Trustee having served 20 years will be entitled to automatic trustee emeritus status.