Russ was appointed Controller General of the state of Delaware in 1996. As Controller General, Russ is responsible for the state’s budget and capital spending bills. He is a member of the Delaware Cash Management Board, the State Port Authority, the Financial Advisory Committee and the Blue Rocks Stadium Corporation. Additionally, he has represented the General Assembly on ad hoc committees ranging from decisions on energy to school funding, the state employee’s benefits committee, and the Delaware Health Information Network.

In 1996 Russ was elected Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). This national organization represents roughly 33,000 legislative employees and 8,000 legislators. He also served for several years on the NCSL Executive Committee.

With his various responsibilities Russ has been required to represent both the legislative institution as well as the democratic process internationally. Additionally, Russ has been asked to speak at several national conferences and always plugs the Penn State story.

Russ was born and raised in State College, PA and is a 1972 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with dual degrees in Political Science and Latin American Studies and a 1974 graduate of Penn State with a Masters degree in Public Administration. He is a Lifetime Alumni Association member and member of the Nittany Lion Club. He also studied at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is married to the former Elaine Rudolph (1972 graduate) and has a son, Troy (’98) and daughter, Julie.

Position Statement

Penn State is forever ingrained in me. I was born and raised in State College. My father was Dean of Agriculture as well as Provost until 1977. My sisters, wife, son, nieces and nephews and in-laws are all graduates of PSU. Everything that happens at Penn State ripples through us all.

The revelation of accusations against Sandusky and the subsequent ignominious termination of Coach Paterno and others demands some sort of airing out, regardless of the findings, on the entire incident. Having said that, I want to represent the University, its students and faculty and the alumni by sitting at the table where extraordinary decisions are made with direct repercussions on the future of our University. I want Penn State to continue to be the academic pinnacle it has worked so hard to become. I want the University to be the finest research institution in the country. I want its faculty to be those who teach rather than lecture. I want every student to be able to afford tuition. I want to be proud of saying “I am a graduate of Penn State”. And I want to show that pride in any way I can including yelling “We are” at the sporting events that tie us together as a community.

I know that, if elected, I will be one of several voting members. And I believe my voice can matter. I will always put the integrity and reputation of Penn State above expediency.