Biographical Sketch

Having grown up in Levittown, with coal mining grandparents in Wilkes-Barre, and having worked in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh as a Physician Assistant, Paul J. Malaspina MD, FACS is now a general and trauma surgeon in Erie. Dr. Malaspina is the Chief of General Surgery at UPMC-Hamot, a 412 bed hospital where he initiated robotic surgery and is recognized by his peers as a thought leader in quality and patient safety.

As an undergraduate Paul majored in Earth Sciences, became a brother at Triangle, was active in the Penn State Outing Club, and held a student job as an EMT with the University Ambulance service. He then entered Hershey Medical Center’s Physician Assistant program. When he entered Temple University School of Medicine at age 35 he had practiced 10 years as a P.A. and would total 20 years of EMS service.

Since serving his surgical residency in an urban area of medical need, Dr. Malaspina has led surgical teams through thousands of trauma resuscitations and emergency operations and has patented a device to aid in saving the lives of children. An award winning author, popular speaker and teacher, he has board experience with several medical organizations, is a member of multiple professional societies and has served on the ethics committees of two major hospitals.

Paul and his wife Debbie are Life Members of the Penn State Alumni Association and enjoy tailgating in RV lot 19 with their two high school age children, Ryan and Angela.

Position Statement

The definition of a trustee is one who is responsible for the welfare of another. I feel a calling to serve on the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University. Distinct from those running only on an anti-incumbent sentiment, I have actual solutions to offer.

The horrible tragedy which has stricken our University community cannot be undone. Yet, some societal change can evolve from this, a modicum of healing for victims and most urgently, effective prevention, if our response is focused. Most sexual abuse goes unreported. The lesson hit us hard, that it can even happen here. Now as now a collateral victim itself, Penn State can and should lead nationally in barrier-breaking, outcomes-based, multidisciplinary translational research to combat sexual abuse.

Penn State’s paramount concern for the victims was well transmitted. The response was otherwise lacking in two major aspects. One is leaving unaddressed the sensationalist media’s myth that this episode somehow characterizes the University family. The other issue is the termination of Joe Paterno as a myopic response. I do support renaming the field as the Joe Paterno Field at Beaver Stadium.

In the limited space available I can only briefly address the main issues which have confronted alumni recently, but I also care deeply about teaching accountability, civility, professionalism and entrepreneurship. As a Trustee I would advocate for open, positive responses to all issues facing the institution, and pro-active planning for the future of Penn State.

Thank you for your kind consideration.