Biographical Sketch

Jef Wall’s education and eclectic employment history makes him a uniquely qualified candidate for the Board of Trustees. Jef received a Bachelor's in History (1974) and a Master of Public Administration (1976) from Penn State. While enrolled, he served as president of the Association of Residence Hall Students, an RA and administrative assistant in North Halls, and was inducted into Skull & Bones. As a student leader, Jef coordinated the first comprehensive resident assistant performance survey and chaired a multi-organization committee to review the University's campus solicitation policy.

Following graduation, Jef’s employment history includes both the public and private sector. His career began as Assistant Dean of Students, Bethany College, Bethany, WV, followed by ownership and management of the family lawn and garden business in his hometown of Ambridge, PA. He served over 20 years on the ESB Bank Board of Directors, a $2 billion community bank headquartered in Ellwood City, PA. He was employed as Assistant Business Manager, Ambridge Area School District and Business Manager for Beginning with Books in Pittsburgh. Next, Jef was Vice President-Operations for R. J. Rhodes Transit, a transportation company based in Ambridge. He re-entered public employment as Business Manager, Rochester Area School District, and currently serves as Business Manager for the Penns Valley Area School District, Spring Mills, PA.

Jef hails from a proud Penn State family, including his wife Barbara Parsons Wall, daughters Heather and Gretchen, brother Bill, sister Sue Antolic, nephew Christopher and future son-in-law Lyle Stephens.

Position Statement

For over 40 years, I have watched Penn State evolve into a world class educational institution. The future challenges are many; however, three in particular stand out.

- A new, open leadership that incorporates the views of the entire University community must be established. Continuing with an insular, top-down management structure without participation from those most affected has historically proven to be counterproductive.

- I am the son of a middle class family, who sacrificed to provide me with the Penn State education that has helped define me. Nearly all my college friends' parents were steelworkers, farmers, or small business owners. Today, a Penn State education for middle class families is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. The second challenge is to make Penn State more affordable for the masses, keeping true to its land grant institution legacy.

- Finally, dealing with the ever changing higher education funding climate will be on-going. My experience with public education, and its funding challenges, will be invaluable.

I believe I am a viable candidate for Board of Trustees as exemplified by my eclectic work background, in both the public and private sector, which has provided me with a unique perspective. I have learned to communicate effectively with those from all walks of life. And as Creedance Clearwater Revival sang in my collegiate days, "I ain't no millionaire's son...I ain't no fortunate one". I'm just a regular working guy, trying to do the best for my family, community, and hopefully, in the near future, for Penn State University.