A meeting of the Committee on Legal and Compliance (the Committee) of the Board of Trustees was held via video conference, at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2022.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Houston, Vice Chair Kleppinger, Cairns, de Levie, Potts, and Rapp. Also attending were President Bendapudi (Ex Officio) and Schuyler (Ex Officio). Also present were Dunham, Guadagnino, Harvey, Holleran, Oman, Penkala, Schwartz, and Thorndike. Present by invitation were Heck, James and Kraft.

Chair Houston called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and called for a motion for the Committee to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2022 committee meeting. A motion was put forward by Trustee de Levie, seconded by Trustee Julie Anna Potts, and was unanimously approved.

Chair Houston confirmed the primary agenda item for the meeting was consideration of the university’s plan to expand alcohol service at Beaver Stadium. If approved, the proposal would move to the full Board for consideration at the September 23rd Board meeting. Chair Houston asked Dr. Pat Kraft Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, Vinnie James, Deputy Athletic Director for Internal Operations, Vinnie James and Carl Heck Senior Associate Athletic Director for Capital Projects, Events and Facilities to provide an overview of the decision-making factors and the operational plan for expanded sale of alcohol at Beaver Stadium. Kraft noted key decision-making factors were enhancement to fan experience and gameday atmosphere, substantial data showing the reduction in alcohol-related incidents when alcohol is sold in venue, fan polling data showing 50% of respondents support the decision to sell alcohol in Beaver Stadium while only 21% are opposed, eight Big Ten peers currently sell alcohol at athletic events. Kraft also highlighted data from other institutions showing a reduction in alcohol related incidents when alcohol is sold in the stadium. Kraft detailed the partnership with Oak View Group (OVG), a full-service venue management company that operates sports venues, arenas, theatres and convention centers throughout the US. OVG will provide a robust network of staffing to address critical staffing needs required by the operational plan. Key details of the operational plan were highlighted including wrist banding every individual who purchases alcohol, the addition of over 300 new staff members dedicated to the oversight, rule enforcement and operation of the sale of alcohol, ending all alcohol sales at the end of the 3rd quarter, all employees serving alcohol will be RAMP trained and certified and all employees will undergo alcohol absorption training, learning rate factors and intervention techniques to help identify patrons who may need assistance.

Kraft answered questions about the employment status of the employees, monitoring of alcohol consumption within and outside the stadium, liability risk assessment and exposure, projected financial revenues and expense, metrics for measuring success, timeline for the resolution and proposal, current number of alcohol related issues, and the plan for revenue.

A motion was put forward by Trustee Kleppinger, seconded by Trustee Rapp, and by a vote of six-to-one with Trustee Cairns dissenting, the Committee approved the following resolutions for the Sale of Alcohol at Athletic Events:

WHEREAS, prior resolutions of the Board of Trustees with respect to the approval of annual applications, renewals, and other filings required by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for the use, possession and sale of alcoholic beverages on University premises, require that material changes to the terms and conditions previously approved by the Board of Trustees with respect to such licenses and permits shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its consideration and approval;

WHEREAS, the University, through its Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, has proposed to expand the scope of the previously approved sale of alcoholic beverages at football games and other events at Beaver Stadium, as described [in Appendix A hereto];
NOW, THEREFORE, the committee on legal and compliance hereby recommends to the Board of Trustees the approval of the University’s plan with respect to sales of alcoholic beverages at Beaver Stadium, as described in Appendix A.

The meeting is available in its entirety here.

The public meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Harvey
Associate Secretary
Director, Office of the Board of Trustees