THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT LIFE
MINUTES OF MEETING
VOLUME AARSL 47

Jan 18, 2024

A meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life of the Board of Trustees was held via video conference call at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Chair Wagman, Vice Chair Detwiler, Brown, Dietrich, Fenchak, Krieger, Lynch, Mumin, Paterno, Riegel, Rowland, and Schuyler. Also attending were Board Chair Schuyler (Ex Officio), President Bendapudi (Ex Officio), the Governor’s non-voting representative Myers, Emeriti Trustees Doran and Pope, and Constituent Representatives Concepcion, Duffey, DuFour, Egolf, Galloway, Ingram, Levendosky, Miller, and Seymour. Also present were staff members Adams, Bieschke, DelliCarpini, Dowhower, Harlow, Harvey, Kim, Melvin, Oman, Oziemblowsky, Pell, Read, Schwartz, Smith, and Thorndike.

Chair Wagman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Oziemblowsky confirmed a quorum was present. Chair Wagman welcomed all attendees and reminded those attending via Microsoft Livestream the agenda and supporting materials was available at https://trustees.psu.edu/.

Chair Wagman called for a motion for the Committee to approve October 19, 2023 committee Meeting Minutes, which was forwarded by Trustee Riegel, seconded by Trustee Dietrich, and unanimously approved.

Chair Wagman welcomed Matt Melvin, Vice President for Enrollment Management, who provided the Committee an enrollment update. Melvin supplied the Committee a review of Academic Year 2023-2024 enrollment and strategies for growth, particularly at Penn State’s Commonwealth Campuses, to improve the yield of students and the budget assumptions and strategies to achieve enrollment growth projections. Further, he discussed building a pipeline for student success, to include engaging in the communities Penn State serves at the high school level and in the community to address college cost preparedness in areas such as financial aid, job projections, engaging parents and guardians, and marketing Penn State to meet prospective student and parental topics of interest.

Chair Wagman also greeted Dr. Margo DelliCarpini, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses and Executive Chancellor, who highlighted progress towards aligning commonwealth campus academic program offerings to local community and economic development needs to engage students in the communities that feed the commonwealth campuses and University Park. DelliCarpini had previously served as the Chancellor of the Abington Campus where she compiled an accomplished record of strategic leadership and a commitment to student access and success, academic scholarship, community outreach and diversity, equity and inclusion. DelliCarpini noted Commonwealth Campuses top enrolled programs, enrollment trends, and strategies for sustainable enrollment including “stewardship of place”, community impact zones, alignment of academic portfolios with local needs and resources, innovative degree program delivery, dual enrollment pathways, 3+1 progression options for students, and workforce and economic development hubs across stakeholders and communities in alignment with Penn State’s land grant mission.

Dr. Karen Kim, Dean at Penn State College of Medicine, gave the Committee a substantive overview of College of Medicine research enterprise and growth opportunities after four months into her tenure. As dean, Dr. Kim leads a college of approximately 1,400 faculty, 1,600 full and part-time staff, an enrollment of approximately 1,000 students (medical, physician assistant and graduate) represented at both the Hershey and University Park campuses, and approximately 590 resident trainees and 140 fellows as part of the learning community at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. In addition to being Penn State College of Medicine's first female dean, Karen joins a small number of Asian women in leadership positions across U.S. medical colleges and will be the first Korean American woman serving in such a role nationally. Kim outlined strategies for Penn State College of Medicine research growth, engagement with peer universities, industry, and regional and commonwealth enterprises to achieve
broad impact across innovative areas as cancer research, Artificial Intelligence and Bioinformatics, neurosciences, and interdisciplinary biological sciences.

The meeting is available in its entirety here.

Chair Wagman noted the next meeting of the Committee on AARSL is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:15 a.m., including agenda topics of Commonwealth Campus retention and graduation rates and a discussion on how to grow the research enterprise by focusing on the areas where Penn State is (or can be) a leader in higher education, including partnering with other leading universities.

With no other business coming before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Oziemblowsky
Associate Director
Office of the Board of Trustees