

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020  
VIA ZOOM  
PUBLIC MEETING  
4:00 P.M.**

**I. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE**

Chairwoman JD Dunbar called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with the following Trustees present:

Ms. Milissa Steiner Bauer, Vice Chairwoman  
Mrs. Susanne Burns  
Ms. JD Dunbar, Chairwoman  
The Honorable R. Lee James  
Ms. Kaitlyn Krupa, Student Trustee  
The Honorable Donna Oberlander  
Mr. Larry Pickett  
Mr. Brendan Shepherd  
Mr. Howard Shreckengost  
Mr. Neil Weaver

ABSENT: Mr. James Kifer, Secretary

The following members of the University administration attended the meeting:

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, President  
Mr. Len Cullo, Vice President, Finance and Administration  
Dr. Laura Delbrugge, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Mr. David Dollins, Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Dr. Susanne Fenske, Vice President, Student Affairs  
Dr. Phillip Frese, Dean, College of Business and Information Sciences  
Mr. James Geiger, Vice President, University Advancement  
Dr. Pam Gent, Provost and Academic Vice President  
Ms. Hope Lineman, Dean, Career and Workforce Development  
Dr. Gwen Price, Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Services

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE.**

### III. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Chair JD Dunbar presented the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any items needed removed for further discussion.

1. Approval of the July 16, 2020 meeting minutes
2. Approval of the FY2020-2021 Annual Budget

A motion was made by Trustee Weaver, seconded by Trustee Pickett, to approve the September 17, 2020, Consent Agenda.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Mrs. Milissa Steiner Bauer	YES
Mrs. Sue Burns	YES
Ms. JD Dunbar	YES
Mr. R. Lee James	YES
Ms. Kaitlyn Krupa	YES
Ms. Donna Oberlander	YES
Mr. Larry Pickett	YES
Mr. Brenden Shepherd	YES
Mr. Neil Weaver	YES

The motion carried.

### IV. REPORT OF CAREER AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Dean Ms. Hope Lineman shared the Regional Workforce Assemblies initiative that is going on across PASSHE. The assemblies enable us to work closely with employers to ensure the credentials and degrees we are offering align with the state's workforce needs. The Assemblies are a continuation of an effort that started in 2019 when the State System hosted a 2-day summit to identify the skills and competencies needed within six industries. Employers in these industry sectors to validate the top in-demand occupations, gain insight into the partnerships between industry and higher education, and understand challenges conducted a survey. She noted that the Venango campus is looking into apprenticeship programs. They will continue these virtual meetings throughout fall.

### V. REPORT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Vice President Mr. Len Cullo provided the Trustees with the FY2020-2021 budget update in the workshop prior the meeting. He reviewed the list of grants that was included in the trustees' packet. He provided a facilities report including upcoming building renovations of Egbert Hall and the demolition of Carrier Hall. Both would be a DGS project.

## VI. REPORT OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Vice President Mr. Jim Geiger reported that the Clarion University Boards, including the Council of Trustees, have 100 percent participation in donor giving. The Foundation established the Center for Engaged Learning and Student Success through a \$250,000 donation by Jane France '71 and her husband Christian Allison. Alumni and friends came to the aid of students to the tune of \$48,733 through the Student Emergency Fund where 188 students received \$250 to help with college expenses. They recently launched the first online version of the Clarion University Magazine.

## VII. REPORT OF STUDENT TRUSTEE

Trustee Kaitlyn Krupa reported that she has participated in the fall reopening meetings with the President's cabinet. She is working with Student Senate to host town hall meetings to gather students' concerns in areas such as facilities and academics.

## VIII. REPORT OF STUDENT SENATE

President of Student Senate Chelsea Mason reported that she recently met with other student government presidents within the State System and the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Denise Pearson. Their focus was racial and political tensions around campuses. Senate has adjusted Wingo and other events to virtual participation and elections will take place in two weeks.

## IX. REPORT OF FACULTY SENATE

Chair of Faculty Senate Dr. Jacqueline Knaust reported that Faculty Senate met with the University's Advising Center for an overview of their services and how faculty could assist. They met with Len Cullo who reviewed the University's 2020-2021 budget, and they approved the changing of the spring academic calendar.

## X. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Trustee Neil Weaver reported that the BOG's focus is the PASSHE integrations and moving forward with the planning. They put together town hall meetings with CEOs and small businesses for students to build bridges to open more opportunities. Dr. Denise Pearson, vice chancellor and chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer for PASSHE will reach out to each university to formulate a plan to move forward with diversity.

## XI. REPORT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Vice President Mr. David Dollins reported the fall enrollment total to be 4,465 students. The top four feeder schools for fall are CL, Brookville, Clarion and Cranberry. We have the highest retention rate at 77 percent in 29 years. The Center for First Year Experience was recently moved under his division. Clarion University

has made a commitment to students from Pittsburgh Public Schools to help them achieve their dream of a college education. Clarion University is a partner committing \$2,000 per year for Pittsburgh Promise Students.

## XII. REPORT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Professor of Political Science Dr. Barry Sweet introduced John Danvers who participated in the THIS Internship during the spring semester. He spoke about his educational experience and his 15-week internship working in the office of the Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, which led to placement in a full-time position.

Provost Dr. Pam Gent noted that she is proud of the university's faculty and staff in taking the measures to get classrooms ready for online learning for our students this fall. The libraries are open for students to use for meetings and internet connectivity. Special Education recently received their accreditation and it is the only one in the State System. The accounting department is now offering an accounting minor to students with any major from any college.

## XIII. REPORT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Vice President Dr. Susanne Fenske reported that 522 students are living on campus. Some students went back home to live after the start of the semester and others decided to move in. The Center for Wellness is monitoring the testing to students for COVID-19. We have an application available so students can use it as a daily screening and self-check. Computing Services helped the Health Center to be HIPPA compliant while teaching through Zoom. Athletics has started to practice and testing per NCAA mandates. We are still planning for spring competitions. The new student orientations went online and had a great level of engagement from students and families enrolled.

## XIV. REPORT OF OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

President Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson introduced Rogers Laugand who was appointed to the director of multicultural affairs and diversity education. He talked about his role on the Advisory Committee. He is collaborating with faculty for a new course in Racism. The Black Studies Minor held their first virtual symposium. He will continue his work with the Building Bridges Program and Greek Life students for their interest in pursuing a Black Greek Life at Clarion University.

## XV. REPORT OF PACT

Trustee Milissa Steiner Bauer announced that the Annual PACT meeting will be held remotely on October 22.

## XVI. REPORT OF THE CLARION UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.

No report.

XVII. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson discussed the partnership with California, Clarion and Edinboro universities. We will be forming a partnership that could build on our institutional strengths and education opportunities for students. She announced that the Chancellor has asked her to be the lead president in the integration process. This integration could take anywhere from 1-5 years. We will announce in October the plans for the spring semester.

XVIII. REPORT OF COUNCIL CHAIR

Trustee Chair JD Dunbar reported that she had met (with social distance) Student Trustee Kaitlyn Krupa when she realized that Trustee Kaitlyn had never had benefit of a face-to-face meeting as a trustee. Kaitlyn presented her goals as Student Trustee. JD commended her advance planning with a book, *"The Best Four Years: How To Survive & Thrive In College,"* though it is clear she is certainly already achieving objectives. In tribute to VP Len Cullo, she acknowledged the quantum volume of "numbers crunching" relative to stages of Tippin through the years and State System Integration planning. She commented on Len's tenacity by presenting him with a book, *"Virgil Wander" by Leif Enger.* She commended the steadfast dedication of all members of Clarion University through respective planning processes.

XIX. COMMITTEE REPORT

The Trustees Executive Committee met on September 11 and those minutes were forwarded to Trustees.

XX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE.

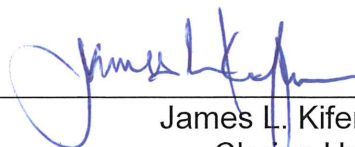
XXI. NEW BUSINESS – NONE.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Trustee Bauer, seconded by Trustee Krupa, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m. The next meeting of the Council of Trustees will be Thursday, November 19, 2020.

Respectfully submitted



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James L. Kifer, Secretary  
Clarion University  
Council of Trustees