

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 20, 2014
108 EAGLE COMMONS
CLARION CAMPUS, CLARION, PA 16214

7:00 P.M.

I. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kifer, Chairperson, with the following Trustees present:

Dr. Syed Ali-Zaidi
Mrs. Milissa Steiner Bauer, Secretary
Mrs. Susanne Burns
Ms. JD Dunbar, Vice Chairperson
Mr. R. Lee James
Mr. James Kifer, Chairperson
Ms. Donna Oberlander
Mr. Randy Seitz
Mr. Howard Shreckengost
Mr. Jeffrey Szumigale
Mr. Darren Young

The following members of the University administration attended the meeting:

Mr. Peter Fackler, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration
Dr. Jocelind Gant, Assistant to the President for Social Equity and Associate Vice President for International Programs
Mr. James Geiger, Vice President for University Advancement
Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk, Provost and Academic Vice President
Dr. Christopher Reber, Executive Dean, Venango College
Mr. Harry Tripp, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Karen Whitney, President

II. Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Seitz, seconded by Ms. Bauer, that the minutes of the November 21, 2013 regular meeting of the Council of Trustees be approved as distributed by mail. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Public Comments

Mr. Kifer asked individuals offering public comments to limit their remarks to no more than three minutes. Mr. Kifer further requested that if a group had several individuals speaking on its behalf, the group limit itself to no more than three speakers.

Dave Osikowicz, a 1973 Clarion graduate and football alumni, commented on the work of the Athletics Task Force on which he serves. He noted President Whitney's 500-Day Plan goal of investing in and rewarding recruitment and retention efforts that attract and retain students. He further noted that the proposed tiering of the Athletic programs had resulted in difficulties in raising scholarship dollars.

Molly Greenawalt, who indicated that she had earned BS (1989) and MA degrees from Clarion (1991) as well as a Reading Specialist certification (1995), expressed concerns about bad press related to the Workforce Plan, fewer students, reduction of academic department chairs from 16 to 5 under academic re-organization, impact of planned Main Street student housing on rental income for local landlords, and the university's association with the Altoona-based United States Veterans Education Institute (USVEI) to provide coursework for veterans.

Dr. Barry Sweet, Professor of Political Science and Vice President of Clarion University APSCUF, requested more time for faculty to meet with the Council of Trustees. He noted that the 30-minute interview that faculty leaders had with the committee of trustees conducting President Karen Whitney's annual performance evaluation was not sufficient for faculty to share their concerns.

Bo Garritano, a 1966 alum/Education major, criticized the rollout of the Workforce Plan and noted that positive messages about the university were not reaching alumni. He encouraged the trustees to continue to research workforce plan issues and to counter efforts to convert the university into a technical school.

Jennifer Fulmer Vinson, a 1986 graduate with a BSA in Theatre, expressed fears about the university's future and urged trustees to continue asking hard questions. She noted her concern about the creation of what she termed, "mega-departments," under the academic re-organization proposed by the Workforce Plan.

A current Clarion University sophomore Education major talked about being upset about the level of negativity surrounding the university. He

indicated that the university administration and trustees were “burning future bridges.”

Dr. Jean Slattery, Professor of Psychology, noted that her position had initially been identified for retrenchment in 2014 but that that was no longer the case. She expressed her feeling that the Psychology Department was being “killed” and suggested that its proposed merger with other departments under academic re-organization would make it much more difficult for faculty to do their jobs.

Matt Younger, a sophomore Music Education major, shared the story of his decision to choose Clarion University over other education options. He commended Clarion faculty for their help and suggested that there were no data to support the administration’s claim that the Workforce Plan would save money.

Gary Sproul, a Clarion grad with a B.S. in Education (1975) and Master’s in Reading (1980), pointed to the inconsistency in the university’s coordination of student teaching assignments and student teacher supervision. He expressed criticism of the university’s Field Services Office and shared a copy of a student teaching form issued by the office.

Elizabeth Fulmer, a member of the Alumni Association Board with three Clarion degrees, relayed the story of a Clarion University alum who had been part of the team of art historians, architects, curators, and museum directors known as the Monuments Men, who saved Europe’s finest art during World War II. She indicated that under the Workforce Plan, the university was “going backward not forward” and would find it more difficulty to raise alumni support.

President Whitney requested that the agenda be re-ordered to allow a presentation from Clarion University Veteran students, which had been scheduled to occur under the Academic Affairs portion of the agenda. Dr. Whitney explained that the presentation had been planned to include a Skype connection to a student stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, and another student who was present at the trustees’ meeting. The Trustees agreed to re-order the agenda.

B. Veteran Students at Clarion University

Dr. Nowaczyk introduced Ms. Wendy Martin, a Clarion University senior Psychology major and Philosophy minor with 18 years of service in the U.S. Army. He also introduced Ms. Holly Johnson, a Liberal Studies major with focus in Communication currently serving with the U.S. Air Force and stationed in Anchorage, Alaska. Dr. Nowaczyk indicated that he had asked the women to share with the trustees their experiences as members

of the U.S. Military who were pursuing degrees at Clarion University. Dr. Nowaczyk also introduced Dr. David Hartley, Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration and retired Army Master Sergeant, noting Dr. Hartley's assistance with integrating on-ground and online veterans into the Clarion University community.

Ms. Martin noted that she had begun her studies at Clarion University in 2010 and had felt warmly welcomed on campus. She indicated that her professors were very approachable and that she had received good advising. Ms. Martin noted that her psychology courses had been helpful to her in her current work in the home health field.

Ms. Johnson shared that she was pursuing a degree online to enhance her ability to move up in the ranks. She noted the challenges of managing deadlines with the time differences between Clarion and Alaska but agreed that faculty had been helpful. Mr. Hartley noted that the Clarion University Veterans Club was exploring additional services that might be extended to Distance Education students in the military.

The trustees thanked Ms. Martin and Ms. Johnson for their service to their country and paid tribute to them with a standing ovation.

C. Report of Student Senate

Clarion Student Senate President Todd Garrett noted the April 5-6 Board of Student Government Presidents' conference at the Dixon Center and mid-March budget presentations to Student Senate by Clarion University student organizations. He also discussed his efforts to restructure Student Senate to become more involved with university committees. Dr. Whitney congratulated Mr. Garrett on his nomination by Governor Corbett to membership on the PASSHE Board of Governors. Dr. Whitney noted that Mr. Garrett was awaiting confirmation of his appointment.

D. Report of Faculty Senate

No report.

E. Council Chairperson's Report

Mr. Kifer reminded the Council's Nominating Committee that they would be presenting their recommended slate of officers for 2014-2015 at the April 17, 2014 Council meeting. He also announced that the Spring PA Association of Councils of Trustees (PACT) Conference would be held on April 8-9 in Harrisburg. Trustee Sue Burns and PACT Executive Board member noted that registration materials for the conference would be emailed to trustees very soon.

Mr. Kifer also reminded trustees to complete the Statement of Financial Interests form and submit them to the State Ethics Commission no later than May 1, 2014.

IV. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

A. President

Information Items

1. PASSHE Update

Dr. Whitney reported that at their January 2014 meeting the Board of Governors had approved Clarion University's proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree programs. She commended the outstanding work of Venango College Executive Dean Dr. Chris Reber, Interim Director of the School of Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Shelly Moore, and the school's dedicated faculty. Dr. Whitney also thanked Trustee Donna Oberlander for helping to pass the 2012 legislation that allowed PASSHE universities to offer applied doctorates.

2. PASSHE Strategic Plan 2020

President Whitney called the trustees' attention to the PASSHE's new strategic plan that had been attached to their meeting agenda. She noted her belief that the plan aligned well with Clarion University's strategic directions and struck a good balance in its focus on the value of a system and the need for strong independent universities.

Dr. Whitney also requested that the trustees complete and return to the President's Office a Federal Communication Commission survey that was at their places. She noted the survey was required for the renewal of the university's broadcast station license for WCUC-FM.

3. Presidential 500-Day Plan February 2014 Status Report

Dr. Whitney called the trustees' attention to the February status report of her 500-Day Plan that had been attached to the Council agenda. She highlighted efforts to offer programs in areas where the university already had expertise, including a new online criminal

justice program that was awaiting Board of Governors approval. She also noted a university committee that was reviewing the university's Responsibility Center Budgeting model which will provide its recommendations to her in mid-March.

In response to a question from Dr. Ali-Zaidi about university offerings in engineering, Dr. Whitney noted her understanding that Clarion University was prohibited from offering engineering credentials under state legislation. She indicated that she would check with the Chancellor's Office about the issue.

B. Academic Affairs

Information Items

1. Enrollment and Retention Update

Dr. Nowaczyk discussed recruitment activities, noting that faculty from Business, Education, Art and English had joined or were planning to join Admissions staff in phoning prospective students about their programs. Trustee JD Dunbar noted that faculty leaders who had been interviewed by the trustees for the President's annual performance evaluation had noted the interest of faculty in helping with student recruitment. Dr. Nowaczyk also reported that additional E&G funds had been set aside as scholarships for Pennsylvania residents with financial need and an SAT score of 1050 or above. He noted that more alumni were also assisting with recruitment.

In retention news, Dr. Nowaczyk reported an overall retention rate for fall to spring of 91%. He noted that 19 of 20 (95%) of African-American males who had participated in the Golden Eagles Men's Success (GEMS) program in fall 2013 returned in spring 2014.

2. The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) Program Report

Dr. Nowaczyk introduced Dr. Barry Sweet, Clarion coordinator for The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) Program. Dr. Sweet briefly described the internship through which students have the opportunity to work with a state agency and also complete a major research paper while earning 15 credits. He introduced senior John Owens, a Finance and Economics major, who spoke to the trustees about the value of his THIS experience as an intern with the Senate Democratic Research office. Mr. Owens noted the excellent

educational opportunities he had experienced during his studies at Clarion University.

C. Finance and Administration

Action Item

1. Approval of Capital Program Submissions, 2014-2015

Mr. Fackler discussed the annual submission of capital projects to PASSHE, noting that Clarion's submissions for 2014-2015 were the same as the prior year. He further noted that Clarion University did not expect to receive funding for Marwick Boyd Fine Arts Center for several years given the more recent release of funds for the Becht and Tippin renovations.

A motion was made by Dr. Ali-Zaidi, seconded by Mr. Szumigale that the following resolution should be approve. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees, Clarion University approve the 2014-2015 Capital Program Submissions to the State System of Higher Education.

Information Items

1. Status of Facilities Report

Mr. Fackler provided an update on the progress of key facilities projects. He reported that Becht Hall demolition work was on target, with the building now gutted. He also reported that the renovation of Tippin and construction of a rec pool would occur in six sequences, which would be overseen by the PA Department of General Services (DGS). He noted that work on the replacement of the turf at Memorial Stadium would take place in 2014 spring/summer.

2. Budget Update

Mr. Fackler reported that he was working on developing three-year budget projections for the university at the request of President Whitney. He also discussed his efforts to align the university's budget with its audited financials to improve ease of review.

Mr. Fackler shared copies of the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets for every PASSHE

university. He noted that the data were also available on the PASSHE web site. Mr. Fackler pointed out that across the System, university auxiliary operations were healthier than E&G operations.

D. Student Affairs

Action Item

1. Approval of Proposed Code of Conduct Revisions

Mr. Tripp presented proposed changes in the university's Student Code of Conduct, explaining that revisions had been undertaken in response to a directive from the Office of Civil Rights related to the language used in the code to define sexual assault and sexual violence. He noted that the proposed changes were consistent with the advice of university legal counsel and the Model Code of Student Conduct, a national best practice for public institutions.

A motion was made by Ms. Dunbar, seconded by Mr. James, to approve the following resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustee, Clarion University, approve the proposed Code of Conduct changes, effective fall 2014.

E. University Advancement

Information Item

1. Fund-raising Report

Mr. Geiger shared copies of the report of private support for July 1, 2013 through January 31, 2014. He noted increases of 6% in total donors and in alumni donors.

2. Miscellaneous Development News

Mr. Geiger reported that the Clarion University Foundation, Inc. agreed to eliminate an overhead tax to university units that receive endowment gifts. He also noted that Development staff had been working with Clarion University Professor of Geography Yasser Ayad on a GPS project that will provide a profile of the university's alumni and their locations.

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

A. Executive Committee

Mr. Kifer noted that the Trustees Executive Committee had met on February 14, 2014, and that copies of the minutes of the meeting would be sent to the trustees.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS - Call for Executive Session

The trustees entered into executive session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss personnel issues and returned to public session at 10:28 p.m.

A. Presidential Leadership Review

A motion was made by Ms. Dunbar, seconded by Mr. Seitz to approve the following motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

MOVE that the Council of Trustees, Clarion University, recommend to the Board of Governors that the Chancellor be authorized to extend the contract of President Karen M. Whitney for one year.

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| Dr. Ali-Zaidi | YES |
| Mrs. Bauer | YES |
| Mrs. Burns | YES |
| Ms. Dunbar | YES |
| Mr. James | YES |
| Mr. Kifer | YES |
| Ms. Oberlander | YES |
| Mr. Seitz | YES |
| Mr. Shreckengost | YES |
| Mr. Szumigale | YES |
| Mr. Young | YES |

IX. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Milissa Steiner Bauer, Secretary
Council of Trustees