

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017  
ROBERT W. RHOADES CENTER AUDITORIUM  
VENANGO CAMPUS, OIL CITY, PA 16214

Public Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

I. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Dunbar with the following Trustees present:

Mrs. Milissa Steiner Bauer, Vice Chairwoman  
Mrs. Susanne Burns  
Ms. JD Dunbar, Chairwoman  
Mr. Edward Green  
Mr. R. Lee James  
Mr. James Kifer, Secretary  
Ms. Donna Oberlander  
Mr. Neil Weaver

The following Trustees were absent:

Mr. Randy Seitz  
Mr. Howard Shreckengost  
Dr. Syed Ali-Zaidi

The following members of the University administration attended the meeting:

Dr. Jeff Allen, Dean, Health and Human Services  
Mr. Len Cullo, Vice President, Finance and Administration  
Mr. David Dollins, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Dr. Susanne Fenske, Vice President, Student Affairs  
Dr. Phillip Frese, Dean, College of Business and Information Sciences  
Dr. Steve Harris, Interim Dean, College of Arts, Education and Sciences  
Dr. Todd Pfannestiel, Interim Provost and Academic Vice President  
and Acting President  
Ms. Debra Sobina, Director Venango Campus/Assistant Dean

The following Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education administration attended the meeting:

Dr. Karen Whitney, Interim Chancellor

Chairwoman Dunbar greeted Chancellor Whitney who was in attendance at tonight's meeting and thanked her for seven years of service, dedication and commitment to Clarion University. In addition, Ms. Dunbar thanked Ms. Debbie Sobina, Director and Assistant Dean, and the Venango campus staff for hosting our budget workshop, dinner and meeting. Ms. Dunbar also acknowledged the participation of members of the Venango College Advisory Council and all guests present.

## II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Dunbar asked individuals offering public comments to limit their remarks to no more than five minutes.

Dr. Ray Feroz, Professor, Rehabilitation Sciences/President, APSCUF, congratulated Dr. Whitney for being selected as Interim Chancellor and to Dr. Pfannestiel for stepping up as Acting President during this presidential transition. In addition, he praised Ms. Dunbar for her enthusiasm and commitment to her new role as Chairwoman of the Council of Trustees and wished everyone to have a good year.

Ms. Dunbar thanked Dr. Feroz for his public comments.

## III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Dunbar presented the items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2017.

A motion was made by Ms. Bauer, seconded by Mr. Kifer, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## IV. REPORT OF STUDENT SENATE

1. Venango Campus

Venango Campus Student Senate President Schasta Craig reported that 35 students participated in a Leadership Retreat and the Resource Fair held during new student orientation. She noted other events Senate will be participating in throughout the semester.

2. Clarion Campus

Clarion Student Senate President Katie Welsh reported she has a full Senate. She indicated her group will be participating in a retreat this coming weekend and they will be hosting Wingo throughout the semester. She is excited for this year.

## V. REPORT OF FACULTY SENATE

Dr. Adam Roberts, Chair of Faculty Senate, indicated Faculty Senate is thrilled of the positive trend in enrollment. They will be meeting with the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management to determine how faculty can assist in growing our enrollment. They are looking to incorporate the inquiry seminars into the academic standards. Faculty Senate is dedicated to completing their bylaws.

Trustee James thanked Dr. Roberts for his positive Senate report.

## VI. COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Dunbar reported that the trustees' met with Dr. Peter Garland, Executive Vice Chancellor, to review the presidential search process and thanked those trustees who attended the meeting. At this time, Ms. Dunbar asked Trustee Bauer, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, to provide an update on the search.

Ms. Bauer reported that members of the search committee were selected. She noted that we will schedule open forums and interviews with the candidates for university and community constituents. She emphasized their goal is to find a president who represents our mission and core values.

## VII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### 1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on September 15, 2017 and a copy of the minutes would be forwarded to the trustees.

## VIII. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

### 1. PASSHE Update

Dr. Todd Pfannestiel, Acting President, called on Chancellor Whitney who provided a PASSHE update.

Dr. Whitney stated that she is 10 days in her role as Interim Chancellor and appreciates the patience and support she received from Clarion during this presidential transition. She believes all 14 state-owned universities have the opportunity to thrive and it will require a change in legislation and policy. She plans to work hard and lay the groundwork for the next chancellor.

Dr. Pfannestiel provided an update on the academic programs' sustainability and those programs they are assessing. Since fall 2016, the

university has engaged faculty in discussions regarding low-enrolled degree programs and the possibility of faculty retrenchment. He announced that Clarion University has withdrawn the letter of possible faculty retrenchment that was sent in March 2017. He added, Clarion saw an increase in enrollment this fall, and the administration continues to analyze academic offerings and launch new programs that meet student interest and workforce demand. He looks forward to working closely with faculty union leadership to address our mutual goals of ensuring academic quality, affordability and cost containment.

2. Points of Pride

Dr. Pfannestiel directed the trustees' attention to the Points of Pride handout that was at their places. He announced our enrollment is up for the first time since 2009. In addition, Clarion alumnus, Chris Albrecht, was named New York Teacher of the Year. The National Science Foundation has award a \$151,940 grant to physics professor Dr. Chunfei Li and distinguished award honorees were recognized at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on September 9.

IX. REPORT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1. Enrollment Update

Dr. Pfannestiel introduced Dr. David Dollins, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, who provided an enrollment update.

2. Venango Report

Ms. Debra Sobina, Director Venango Campus/Assistant Dean, provided the Venango campus report. She reported the Medical Imaging starting class increased 22 percent from last year. Allied Health programs showed an increase of 44 majors at Pittsburgh Site with total enrollment over 100 students. We have added a three year BS degree pending approval at the October BOG meeting. She concluded her report with the status of Venango facilities and student life and events.

X. REPORT OF FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES

1. Annual Budget

Mr. Cullo reviewed the FY17-18 budget with the trustees in the workshop prior the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Weaver, that the following resolution be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees, Clarion University, approve the annual budget for 2017-2018 and its submission to the State System of Higher Education.

2. Status of Facilities

Mr. Cullo briefed the trustees on the status of the Tippin renovations and that we are now under budget for the project. Currently, we are waiting for the contractors to sign new letters of agreement.

XI. REPORT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Fenske announced that Clarion lost a student this past week and her staff, faculty and students pulled together to provide counseling and support during this difficult time. She added that the student fees she asks the trustees to approve every April is the funding source that allows us to provide counseling services to our students in difficult times such as a death of a student.

Additionally, she reported we have 185 students in our Living and Learning Communities implemented this year and these students are asking for expanded programs for next year. On August 22, Student Affairs kicked off the first official day of New Student Orientation Week (N.O.W.) that provided incoming freshman a weeklong orientation on campus. They provided programs and activities to help get students acclimated which resulted a better retention rate. They will be hosting Wellness Week during ALF.

XII. REPORT OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

1. Marketing and Fundraising Report

Mr. Geiger announced he has a full staff of fundraising officers. They are working with Dr. Dollins in Enrollment Management to coordinate our marketing efforts with our marketing firm, Zimmerman Agency.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

#### XIV. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Resolution of Appreciation for President Karen Whitney

A motion was made by Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Green to approve the following resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, President Karen M. Whitney has served as 16<sup>th</sup> President of Clarion University since July 2010 with dedication, diversity, enthusiasm, loyalty, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, President Whitney has provided exemplary, visionary leadership to support Clarion's academic and strategic plans and the university's mission to promote teaching, learning and scholarship in a comprehensive educational and professional environment; and

WHEREAS, President Whitney has established academic excellence and high-quality programs and demonstrates a strong commitment to serving students and meeting regional needs; and

WHEREAS, President Whitney has prepared a purposeful strategic plan with revised mission, vision and core value statements, and strategic directions; implemented a reorganized and streamlined academic structure; begun to turn the enrollment challenge in the desired direction; implemented new budgeting and accountability systems; reaffirmed Clarion's accreditation by Middle States and added new academic programs; and

WHEREAS, as President of Clarion University launched the, "Courageous, Confident, Clarion" brand targeting prospective and existing student interest; and

WHEREAS, President Whitney has been a driving force of the university's greater focus on reinventing a broadly oriented state university as a very intentional, highly qualified professional university that meets the needs of the students and the changing economy; and

WHEREAS, President Whitney adopted community living in our new community-style suite housing and has helped to ensure high quality, efficient and sustainable academic and auxiliary facilities, where available, to support teaching, learning and student services through an unprecedented number of construction and renovation projects, including five facilities currently in commissioning for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification; and

WHEREAS, President Whitney spearheaded a new tradition with the first observance of Founders Day, Sept. 10, 2010; and kick-started Clarion University's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Sept. 11, 2017, throughout the university and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, under President Whitney's unwavering leadership, Clarion University has expanded access to advance the skills and education of the nursing profession through the study of leadership, policy, population health, clinical and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Trustees extends our genuine appreciation to President Whitney, wife Dr. Peggy Apple and canine Clare (named in honor of the university) for their dedication and solid commitment to Clarion University over the past seven years: NOW therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Trustees expresses its deepest appreciation to President Karen M. Whitney for seven years of distinguished service to Clarion University and the Commonwealth State System as a change agent and ambassador for university presidents, and extends to her our most profound sentiments and pride in her new position as Interim Chancellor, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made a part of the Council of Trustees minutes of the meeting of Sept. 21, 2017, with copies delivered to President Whitney and another placed in the permanent archives of Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

2. Election of Trustee Representatives to the Presidential Search Committee

Chairwoman Dunbar noted that per the Board of Governors' policy guiding Presidential Searches, the Council of Trustees needed to elect three members to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. She reported she had been in consultation with Council members to determine their willingness to serve and their availability. As a result, Chairwoman Dunbar had put forth a recommendation that the following members be elected to the 2017-2018 Presidential Search Committee:

Milissa Steiner Bauer, Chair  
Sue Burns  
Donna Oberlander  
Jim Kifer, Alternate

A motion was made by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Kifer, that the Council of Trustees accept the recommendation of Ms. Dunbar regarding the appointments to the Presidential Search Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Proclamations for Clarion University's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

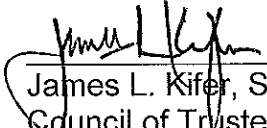
Ms. Dunbar announced that Clarion University received several Proclamations in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. She extended her sincere appreciation and thanked the following elected officials.

Senator Scott Hutchinson  
State Representatives Donna Oberlander and R. Lee James  
Clarion County Commissioners  
Congressman Glenn Thompson  
Governor Tom Wolf  
Borough of Clarion

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Bauer seconded by Mr. Kifer. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

  
James L. Kifer, Secretary  
Council of Trustees