

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CONFERENCE CALL
January 25, 2023
4:08 PM**

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER:

Council members present were Members: Chupka, Dozor, Fillippo Franklin, Ireland, Kinsey, Moskowitz, Schick, Tomlinson, Ward

Absent but accounted for were Members: Betty Silfa

Chairperson Tomlinson called the meeting to order. Chairperson Tomlinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
AS DISTRIBUTED TO THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**

Chairperson Tomlinson calls for the approval of the November 16, 2022 minutes as distributed to the Council.

MOTION (FRANKLIN/DOZOR)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2022 MEETING AS
PRESENTED**

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

AGENDA ITEM III – PUBLIC COMMENT: LIMIT OF TEN (10) MINUTES:

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Public comment now. If there is anyone in person, please come up to the microphone; if remote, please raise your hand and we'll unmute you to speak. Please limit your remarks to 2 min, if possible. Do we have anyone that would like to speak to us? Remotely?”

Margaret Ervin begins, “Thank you so much. So, I'm the president of the APSCUF Union at West Chester chapter, and greetings, it's good to see all of you. I just want to give you a little bit of a flavor for what Spring 2023 is like from the faculty perspective. It is hard.

So, with the loss of, we've been told 500 or so heads the spring, there've been a lot of over enrolled classes, and so faculty are bearing the brunt, particularly with general education classes, of having to have instead of 25 students, 30 students. And this means they have to somehow juggle either, now if it's a writing class, where they would be grading every paper for an hour - are they going to have fewer pages? - are they going to simply not sleep? - you know, what are they going to do? So, our faculty are really struggling; and I just want to let you know how much the faculty care about the students, how much they care about their success, and all that they're doing to make this spring semester work, despite the downturn in enrollment and the fact that their courses have been over-enrolled.

And that's really in my 2 min of time, I just want to let you imagine, you know, what a faculty member's life is like, and the work that they do, and how much their individual attention for each of these students makes a difference in terms of retention, in terms of the student experience. It's oftentimes that speech professor or writing professor who really makes a difference in someone's life; it's that professor who knew you personally; it's a professor you reach out to for your employment opportunities, ‘can you write me a letter of recommendation,’ because that professor really knows who you are. So that's

the kind of thing that's happening in the spring, and I just wanna make all of you kind of feel that, as I'm feeling it very keenly as, of course I'm hearing from faculty who are really stressed out.”

Vice Chairperson Dozor replies, “We want you to know that we appreciate and we understand it's so much to success or university, and the success of our students is because of our professors. And our professors, our staff, they just do a remarkable job and we try to stand by them, and they obviously stand by us and the students. So, we really very much appreciate.”

Margaret Ervin thanks Trustee Dozor for his remarks.

Member Shick inquires, “So, as you describe these general classes specifically, there's this, you know, sense of over enrollment. So, with reduced students there might, there should be some classes that then have less students. And so, what is the mechanism in place to like recalibrate the faculty, as this kind of evolves.”

Margaret Ervin responds, “Well, I think that's really a management question. I'm not sure. It's really a question for the Union. You know it's for us to, you know, we're assigned the work that we're assigned, but as it's been explained to us, we've had to, you know, with a big gen ed curriculum like writing classes, there's so many of them offered. So, what you can do is you can cut sections, let adjuncts go, which is what's happened, and that's really painful for the Union. Those are our colleagues who lost work at the last minute. Let those colleagues go, and then over enroll the other sections, and that saves money, I guess.

President Fiorentino responds, "Let me provide a little follow up. I don't question any of that. But we work towards a balanced budget, and as we have presented already this evening, we suffered an enrollment decline that was unanticipated and our flexibility in the short run is somewhat limited. Dr. Osgood and I both commented that as we plan for next fall we're going to be looking very carefully at, okay are these numbers going to stay down; are they going to rebound? And we will make adjustments accordingly.

The injustice in the short run, because the time between the end of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring is very limited, we don't have a lot of degrees of freedom. Frankly, raising class caps in the manner that it was done is not something that I would like to do at all, our hope is that some of these classes where caps were raised, as we get into the Drop/Add part of the semester, the students start to leave those classes; there's a lot of moving around. We've lowered the caps back down and so for example, a class with 30 goes back to 25 it's going to stay at 25. So, we're sensitive to the point that the Union is making; we'd like to keep the class sizes on the writing emphasis and writing intensive classes down, because it's very important that the student faculty ratios reflect the amount of effort that's been put in by the faculty members, and this is not something that we are going to allow to continue in the long term.

We're very unhappy about some of the things that we had to do this semester but ultimately we have a budget that we're trying to manager and we're trying to make sure that we're looking at our resources. And just as a as a rough rule of thumb, if we lose a 100 students, we lose about a 1 million dollars in tuition and fees.

Margaret Ervin asks, "And that's per year, a 1 million per year? So, 100 students is a 1 million dollars a year? So, it's less for the semester, for students.

President Fiorentino replies, "Yeah, the tuition and fees is approximately \$10,000 per student.

Margaret Ervin thanks Dr. Fiorentino for those assurances and thanks those present and Chairperson Tomlinson thanks Margaret Ervin for her comments.

AGENDA ITEM IV – REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Tomlinson, "I have no real comment other than I am really excited about our bands bid to the Rose Bowl. When will that take place?"

Mr. Andrew Lehman answers, "Next January."

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, "Thanks. So, that gives us a good year to raise the money, and we're all pledged to raise money, correct? Right? Make sure we all get on the list. I've already been contacted.

But anyway, I'm excited about that. That is just a great honor, and I mean, how many times a at our meetings have I said how excited I am about the band that we have. It's just one of the best I've ever observed and seen and it's a great activity for our kids, and this is a great honor to our school. So I'm very, very excited about that."

AGENDA ITEM V – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “And with that I will turn it over to President Fiorentino for his remarks.”

President Fiorentino proceeds with his report. “Thank you, Senator. We’ve had a lot of things going on since our last meeting in November, I wanted to update you on a few of them.

First of all, we still have a team out at PennWest, the integration out in the western part of the State. Our Provost, Dr. Bernotsky is out there, and several of our specialists in admissions and retention, have been working out there. Scott Heinerichs, our Dean of Health Sciences, Dr. Davenport has been spending some time out there. And he did report out on the effort that went into trying to retain as many of the students between fall and spring as we could, and really dig into the students who had not registered for class, and while doing that here we also have a few of people doing it out at Penn West. And even our people also have significant impact out there. So, they're doing double duty, it's the same people, the same team and I'm frankly quite proud of the efforts of our folks out there. They are having a significant impact, reducing costs, and managing students out there, that effort is ongoing and a still a lot of work to be done out there.

I also want to report that Dr. Davenport and I attended the Southeastern Pennsylvania Legislative Delegation event hosted by the Philadelphia Chamber at the Springfield Country Club. It was a great opportunity, there has been a lot of turn over in the Legislature, as we know, so we have a lot of people to meet, and a lot of returning legislators also gave us a great opportunity to work the room and thank the legislators for the significant support that that the State System received in this last budget cycle. Also, a chance to meet a number of the new legislators coming on board, and one of the things I'm

pleased to report is that as I worked the room and either introduced myself or happened to be recognized by people, the legislators are aware of West Chester, they're aware of what's happening at West Chester. All of them I spoke too, were very conversant about our success, and Dr. Davenport I think had the same experience, he was in a different part of the room while we were trying to meet as many people as we could. So, it was a nice evening and a great opportunity to meet some of the legislators. And it's great that the Philadelphia Chamber does conduct that opportunity for us each year.

Tomlinson remarks, "So my lobbying had some effect."

Fiorentino responds and continues, "It absolutely did. Thank you so much, and we're going to miss you.

I also want to report that we had a successful winter commencement. You're probably all aware that Dr. Vilella has played a significant role in the past with commencement and he handed off to Andy Lehman, our new Chief of Staff. And we actually found that Dr. Vilella was delighted to come back and work with us on Commencement. He's enjoying his retirement and had some time on his hands so, he came back. And also, the commencement team, we have a lot of volunteers, Mary Beth Kurimay, I want to call out in particular, who has taken on the effort of leading Commencement, and the Commencement is very important to the families and students and our role is to do a good job and provide them with the dignified experience, and we were very successful. So, I thank everybody who participated in that. And Andy, thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to your leadership going forward in our future commencements, and there will be many.

I want to just mention, we had a great holiday music program, the traditional program that we have every year, followed by an open house at Tanglewood. It's

very nice to have everybody back at Tanglewood. Last year we had a faculty and staff holiday event, we had a big tent on the lawn, and this year everybody was able to come inside the house. We had both the campus event and the community events in early December were well attended, and people were delighted to be back.

We also have a meeting of an organization that we call BUTOG, essentially the leadership of the local municipalities that we reside in. We meet on an ongoing basis with representatives from the borough, from West Goshen, and East Bradford, and it's very constructive for us to just sit down and formally have conversations about issues of mutual interest and we had a good session right near the end of the semester to keep those lines of communication open are very important.

I'm also very pleased to report that we hosted on campus, the Kennedy Center American College Theater regional event, region 2. We hosted the event here, third time we've hosted it, and also our theatre program was one of the recipients of an award. They identified 8 programs, 8 theater performances from this entire region which covers New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, DC, and our students performed an encore presentation of Spring Awakening which they presented in the fall semester. And we hosted this incredible event, and it's a huge feather in the cap of our theatre program, our faculty, staff, students. We had a nice dinner on Friday night with, essentially the faculty from the region. I had an opportunity to speak, and you know I encourage you all, if you have the opportunity take the time to attend our theatrical events, our music events, our dance events that they're just incredible, they really are. It was quite something to see the students, Asplundh was filled with the universities from the region. The room was just filled with electricity and I could see they upped their game and it was quite a performance so, I just wanted to share that with you.

Other things happening - the negotiations towards a new successor agreement for APSCUF are under way. Actually, they're under way for all the bargaining units at this point. I am on the negotiating team for APSCUF and we had to 2 sessions in late December and then another one just last week so, we're under way working with negotiating with our APSCUF colleagues, Margaret Donner, who is a faculty member at West Chester, is on the APSCUF team members I'm delighted about also.

Also, I do also want to just mentioned the Rose Parade. We're so excited we're building a whole set of events around it, we're going to take a whole entourage out there and we're very much looking forward to being out there and having that experience, taking some time to engage in activities with some of our alumni out there. So, if any of you have an interest in going along with us, let us know.

I also want to mention that the Vice President for Student Affairs permanent search is about to be undertaken. Dr. Tabetha Adkins has continued to serve admirably as the interim and has agreed to engage this search effort for us as she returns to her a permanent position once the interim period is over and the position is filled, which we're hoping to do over the course of, I guess, between now and sometime in the summer in anticipation of the fall. So, we look forward to engaging that and putting together a full search committee. As this is our practice and working with the search consultant. And I do, this has been a challenging year, and I do want to publicly thank Dr. Adkins, and you're not out of the woods yet. But thank you for your efforts in a number of extremely challenging areas that we've had to undertake the past 6 months or so.

I want to mention that Deb Cornelius, who has been serving as the interim Executive Director of the Foundation, this past week has been announced as permanent Executive Director of the Foundation. We're very pleased by that announcement. She's done an outstanding job and we're working very closely with her, Dr. Davenport works particularly close to her now in his role and the

transition to the merger of the alumni staff with the Foundation is going very smoothly. We're in the process right now wrapping up our development activities. We're planning a trip to New York City, an overnight trip in March. We're commencing our Tanglewood dinners next week, looking forward to those. And also, I'm very pleased that we have a couple of regional alumni events scheduled; I've been very interested in really ramping up our engagement. We have a significant percentage of our on alumni who are living right here in the 5 county area, or slightly beyond that. And we spend a lot of time traveling to Florida or California, or whatever, and we really want to focus our attention on the alumni who are right here in our region. So, we have several events that are on our schedule already, and I do believe we're hoping to have a few more before the end of the year. So that's a that's an exciting development.

Couple of upcoming events I just want to mention. Erin Brockovich, who is the noted environmentalist, will be speaking on campus on March 11. And if you're interested in attending, please let us know. I'm very much looking forward to that. And also, we have the annual Presidential Scholarship Gala, which will be held March 25th at Longwood Gardens again this year. That's always a great event and again, if you're interested, we'd be delighted to have you.

And then the last thing I just want to mention. At the last meeting we had a public comment related to the issue of the name of Schmucker Hall and issues around Dr. Schmucker. And we indicated that we would be putting together a committee in response to the direction from our policy on this matter, and I think we are finalizing the committee members shortly, and the committee will begin this work liberating on making a recommendation to me, so I will then bring to the to the Council regarding this this issue related to Dr. Schmucker.

And there are no purchase orders for and if there are no questions, that would conclude my report.”

Chairperson Tomlinson thanks President Fiorentino for his report.

AGENDA ITEM VI – REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:

None.

AGENDA ITEM VII – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

None.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – REPORT OF LIASON PERSON TO CONSTITUENCIES:

Chairperson Tomlinson calls for the report of Liaison Person to Consituencies.

Member Ward gives her report, “Good evening everyone. With the Spring 2023 semester upon us, there are many exciting initiatives happening within the student body.

First, to kick off the semester, the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement (SLI), we hosted a variety of events. SLI is hosting Winter Welcome Days for new students to help them connect with their new campus and classmates, and to prepare them for successful years at West Chester University; as well as for returning students to continue finding ways to connect with other students and see all that West Chester has to offer, the plethora of events. Winter Welcome Days will be held from Monday, January 23rd through February 5th. The winter welcome day sign up is now open with online events. Additionally, SLI will be hosting You’re your Org Friday, starting February 3rd and will be going on every Friday in February. There is an anticipation of 100 organizations participating to help students find ways to get involved.

The Honors College, in partnership with SIL, wrapped up the Nobel Leadership Series, engaging around 60 students in 7 weeks of programming, learning about the Nobel Peace Prize, and good and bad leadership characteristics. There was an ability for 5 students who traveled to Norway in December, to be

a part of the Nobel Prize for cities and programming, that will continue into the spring semester.

There's some exciting news surrounding athletics. Our women's soccer team went all the way to the National Championship game in Seattle, Washington. And the field hockey team made it to the Final 4 in Seattle, and both were held in December. In addition, West Chester's cheerleading and dance teams competed in the UCA and UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship held in Disney World. The West Chester U Cheer Team placed 2nd out of 24 teams in the Game Day Open, All Girl division, and they were the highest ranking D2 team in the nation. And the WCU Dance Team competed for the first time in Open Game Day, placing 7th, and that routine was choreographed by 3 students. And they also place 9th in Open Jazz and 3rd in Open Hip Hop.

And finally, I have a report from Stephen Hopson, who is the Associate Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life here on campus, and this is regarding the fraternity and sorority recruitment. So, during the 2021-22 academic year, this university's fraternities and sororities transitioned recruitment to online to accommodate for health and safety concerns created by the pandemic. For this semester, Panhellenic or Greek Life organizations for sorority recruitment decided to have a hybrid schedule, with the first 2 rounds being online, and the last rounds in person. This is the first time in 3 years that they've had in person recruitment. This year 321 women signed up for recruitment, with approximately 305 women participating in the first round of this process and as potential members. And an additional 400 students, are current members doing the recruiting and serving on the Panhellenic recruitment staff. And there are approximately 700 WCU students who are involved in PHC recruitment as a whole. The Inner Fraternity Council recruitment process kicks off on February 6 and numbers are looking ahead of this time last year. IFC recruitment has about 60 men registered. It's expectation that they will reach about 150 registrants before IFC recruitment begins. The National Panhellenic

Council and the Multicultural Greek Council chapters will be conducting their individual intake process this semester as well. Overall, fraternity and sorority membership remains consistent with 1,887 members, as compared to 1,493 from the previous fall across all 4 councils. Given the transition from remote to in person learning and the transient nature of fraternity and sorority membership, the sustainability of these organizations remains remarkable, which is also had a lasting impact on overall retention. And based on the fall 2022, report fraternity and sorority members have a higher GPA than the all-campus average.

And that ends my report.”

AGENDA ITEM IX – REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

Chairperson Tomlinson thanks Member Ward for her report and continues with the meeting, “Our reports on standing committees. Will a member of each committee please report that the committee has met, providing a summary of the meeting, and present any resolutions for consideration.

We have Finance & Administration, Chris Franklin has had to step out,

Secretary Moskowitz reports in Member Franklin’s absence, “So we met. We had a very good meeting, and the report is in your packet.”

Chairperson Tomlinson replies, “Thank you Marion, thank you so much. Academic and Student Affairs.”

Member Schick reports out, “Yes, I met with Dr. Adkins and Dr. Osgood and we discuss what was presented today so that I could be briefed on it, and I thought it was wonderful contribution to the meeting. Thank you.

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Okay, thank you, Sue. University Affairs; University Advancement and External Affairs; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Member Ireland reports, “Yes, we did meet. That report was given the Executive Session, and in your packet you'll find the resolution.

MOTION (IRELAND/SCHICK):

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE CAP. 6 CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS POLICY ON EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT POLICY, 1985-04-A.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Member Ireland continues, “And Mr. Chair, if I could just one quick note. In December my daughter had a birthday party, and I thought it would be neat since she loves space, planets, and she's learning all about that. And Andrew (Lehman) helped me in a great way, and got me set up with the Planetarium here at West Chester University, which I hadn't been at for a long time. The last time I was there, they had wooden chairs. So anyway, I went, Andrew set it up for me, I took a bunch of kids, they all had a great time. I met Dr. Sandra Prichard, who was absolutely amazing, kind enough to give my daughter a little gift, which was great. It was a great experience, it was a lot of fun, and all I'll say is, if you haven't been, if you haven't gone, go! Dr. Pritchard's awesome.

And Andrew, thank you very much for your help. We had a great time, a great experience.”

AGENDA ITEM X – REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

None

AGENDA ITEM XI – OLD BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM XII – NEW BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Tomlinson adjourns meeting.

MOTION (DOZOR/MOSKOWITZ)

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:36 P.M.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marian Moskowitz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Marian Moskowitz