

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 1, 2022

The Bloomsburg University Council of Trustees met in the Assembly Room of Monty's at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually for the public. Those in attendance:

Trustees Present:

Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Chairperson
Ms. Nancy Vasta, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Brian O'Donnell, Secretary
Ms. Amy Brayford
Mr. Ed Edwards
Mr. Duane Greenly
Mr. Daniel Klingerman
Mr. Ray Zaborney

Trustees Absent:

Secretary John Wetzel
Ms. Julia Burcin, Student Trustee

University Personnel

Dr. Bashar Hanna, President
Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Eric Ness, Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs
Mr. Tom Fletcher, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Services
Dr. Marty Wygmans, Interim Vice President for Student Success and Campus Life
Ms. Amy Osborne, Director of Operations and Resource Management
Mrs. Mary Vezendy, Coordinator of Operations

Council of Trustees Advisors

Mr. Shawn Makar, President, Bloomsburg Chapter of AFSCME
Ms. Gretchen Osterman, President, Bloomsburg Chapter of SCUPA
Dr. Eric Hawrelak, Interim President, Bloomsburg Chapter of APSCUF
Mr. Cameren Cooper, President, Community Government Association

Pledge of Allegiance

In accord with House Resolution Number 32, Trustee Bowes requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Call to Order

Trustee Bowes, Chair of the Council of Trustees, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance both in person and virtually. She reported that the Council of Trustees met in Executive Session earlier this morning, June 1, 2022

Roll Call

Trustee Bowes asked Mary Vezendy to conduct a roll call. Ms. Vezendy conducted a roll call of those in attendance and acknowledged a quorum.

Public Comments

Trustee Bowes opened the meeting for public comment. Student Chloe Rayer asked why fees are charged to students taking classes online. Her question will be referred to Administration. Ms. Gretchen Osterman, on behalf of SCUPA, expressed concern over the delay in getting updated job descriptions and job classifications for the new Commonwealth University.

Minutes of the Council of Trustees

Motion was made by Trustee Zaborney to approve the March 2, 2022 minutes, seconded by Trustee O'Donnell, motion was unanimously approved.

Introductions

Trustee Bowes acknowledged the following individuals as being nominated and granted Faculty Emeritus status by President Hanna:

Dr. Maria Teresita Mendoza-Enright, Associate Professor, Department of Media and Journalism

Ms. Linda Neyer, Associate Professor, Library Department

Trustee Bowes recognized those individuals serving on the Advisory Panel: Mr. Shawn Makar, Ms. Gretchen Osterman, Dr. Eric Hawrelak, and Mr. Cameren Cooper.

NEW BUSINESS

President's Report (Dr. Bashar Hanna)

Dr. Bashar Hanna reviewed his President's Report with the Trustees. A copy of the report is appended to the minutes along with the slide presentation. He presented brief updates on the following topics: Spring Commencement, Campus Updates, University Highlights, and Student Success.

Dr. Hanna stated that Spring 2022 Commencement was held Friday, May 13, and Sunday, May 15. In all, nearly 1,500 graduates received diplomas during three ceremonies. Honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degrees were awarded to Kerby Confer, who was the speaker for the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts ceremony; and Ronn Cort, the speaker for the Zeigler College of Business and the College of Science and Technology ceremony.

Dr. Hanna continued with the dedication of the Diehl Center for Law School Preparation. The university initially announced Diehl's gift of \$1.5 million in 2019, but the celebration of the gift was delayed due to the pandemic. The Diehl Center's main objective is to provide information and assistance to students about careers in law, the law school experience and how to prepare for it, and the application process. It also includes a summer institute for prelaw students, a speaker series, law school recruiting events, trips to law schools, and informational events about applying to law school.

Dr. Hanna expressed gratitude as more than 600 Bloomsburg University alumni and supporters came together to help raise \$87,408 in support for BU students during its inaugural 1867 Minutes of Giving Challenge. The money raised during the fundraiser, held from 8 a.m.

Thursday, April 7, to 3:07 p.m. Friday, April 8, will support scholarships and programs for students across BU's campus. "As president it is wonderful to see these results and how our donors helped make this event a success," said BU President Bashar W. Hanna. "While we're always grateful for the financial support our donors so generously provide, the purpose of this event was to generate participation and inspire alumni and supporters to come together in supporting our students." While checks and other gifts continue to come in, as of April 13, the University officially counted 623 donors who made a gift during this special fundraising event to show their support. This was the largest number of donors ever to make a gift during a single event, helping BU substantially exceed its initial 500-donor goal for the campaign.

Dr. Hanna acknowledged that Pennsylvania First Lady Frances Wolf visited Bloomsburg University's Basic Needs Shoppe – a food and basic needs pantry designed to support Bloomsburg students – and joined students and staff for The Realities of Food Insecurity: A Discussion on Hunger, Policy, and Advocacy, a panel discussion on college hunger on Thursday, April 28. First Lady Wolf addressed the growing need for resources for students experiencing food and basic needs insecurity and discussed Governor Tom Wolf's proposed \$1 million investment to address college hunger and \$200 million investment to create the Nelly Bly Tuition Program in the 2022-23 state budget.

Dr. Hanna conclude with two Student Success items. First, the Frederick Douglass Institute for Academic Excellence at Bloomsburg recognizes students for their work through its second annual Creative Expressions Competition. The theme was "Excellence Through Social Justice: Realities and Possibilities." The contest is intended to amplify the voices and perspectives of students across all disciplines making connections between social justice and culture, economics, education, history, and science. It encourages thoughtful reflection and critical thinking through creative expression in various mediums to share experiences, highlight democratic ideals, and move audiences to action. Students can enter any of six categories: art, essay, music, poetry/short story, short film, or professional coursework and class project. Second, The Big Event, sponsored by the CGA, returned after a two year absence due to the pandemic. This year more than 800 students participated in the event on April 2 and visited more than 100 locations throughout the Town of Bloomsburg to help residents get their yards ready for spring. He expressed his gratitude to all of our students who give back to the residents through the Big Event. Each year we hear of quite a few compliments on the work that is done and how friendly our students are.

Leadership & Integrative Studies Program Fee

Trustee Bowes introduced Dr. Rogers-Adkinson to speak.

This is an LHU-based Pilot Program that is part of a multiyear, multi-university grant initiative to serve students with intellectual/developmental disabilities. It provides a 4-year, non-degree certificate modeled after LHU's Inter Disciplinary Track Sheet. LDIS accepts students Ages 18-25 who are currently or formerly eligible for a free appropriate public education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The first cohort of four students is set to matriculate in fall 2022. Students will enroll full-time and audit at least 4 courses per semester. Certificate granted after auditing 96-120 hours including classroom/internships (on and off campus). Internships with external agencies including Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will begin in 2nd or 3rd year.

Program Students will pay full tuition and fees. We are seeking Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program (CTP) status from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid to allow program students to access to federal financial aid and program designation. Comparable to, other programs (Millersville, Temple, Duquesne, Gwynedd Mercy), students will also pay an additional \$5,200 to fund Peer Coaches for 200 hours per semester to help foster self-determination and independence skills. This program-specific fee is independent of financial aid and requires COT approval.

Trustee Bowes asked the Trustees to take action on this item as it was previously reviewed in detail. Trustee Brayford made a motion to approved second by Trustee Greenly. The fee was approved unanimously:

ACTION ITEMS:

TRUSTEES:

Order of Succession Planning Resolution

Chair Bowes made a motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Board of Governors Policy 1983-14-A: Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers, requires that each PASSHE university president develop and publish an Order of Succession identifying, in rank order, members of its university's executive management team who will act on behalf of the president in his/her absence; in the event the president is temporarily unable to fulfill the responsibilities of the position; or in the event there is a vacancy; and

WHEREAS, Board of Governors Policy 1983-14-A, Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers, requires that prior to the beginning of each academic year, the president deliver the university Order of Succession Plan to the Chancellor after a resolution and vote by the university's Council of trustees; and

WHEREAS, the attached Order of Succession Plan, provided by the President of Bloomsburg University, lists in rank order the members of Bloomsburg University's executive management team to act on his/her behalf in his/her absence or in the event he/she is temporarily unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities, or in the event there is a vacancy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees approves and certifies the attached Order of Succession Plan and directs the President of Bloomsburg University to deliver the Succession Plan to the Chancellor, in accordance with Board of Governors Policy 1983-14-A.

1. Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
2. Mr. Eric Ness, Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs
3. Mr. Thomas Fletcher, Vice President for Enrollment Management
4. Mr. Erik Evans, Vice President for University Advancement

Second by Trustee O'Donnell, the resolution for Order of Succession Planning. Mary Vezendy conducted a roll call vote that was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Action Item:

Slate of Officers

Trustee Bowes called on Trustee Brayford, Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee, to present the committee's recommendation for a slate of officers for the 2022-2024 fiscal years. Trustee Brayford made recommendation for a slate of officers for the 2022-2024 fiscal years as follows:

Chair – Ms. Nancy Vasta

Vice Chair – Dr. Brian O'Donnell

Secretary – Mr. Duane Greenly

A vote was taken individually on each nomination and all were individually and unanimously approved.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Vasta and Dr. Hanna presented a citation to Judge Bowes for her dedicated service as Chair to the Council of Trustees. Trustee Vasta read the citation.

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Bowes is a deeply dedicated and loyal trustee of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; and WHEREAS, she was appointed by Governor Tom Corbett as a member of the Bloomsburg University Council of Trustees and has served honorably since 2013, and during her tenure provided steadfast leadership as Chairperson from 2018 to 2022; and WHEREAS, her education, experience, insight and sound judgment have proven invaluable to the deliberations and decision-making of the Council and the University; and WHEREAS, the students, faculty, staff, and administration are grateful for her leadership in the presidential search leading to the hiring of President Bashar W. Hanna and for her steadfast efforts to build relationships across multiple stakeholder groups, including the University's faculty, staff, and foundation and alumni boards, and for her leadership roles within the Council of Trustees, and WHEREAS, under her guidance, Bloomsburg University mounted a sound and swift response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which brought unprecedented challenges to the institution; she lent invaluable strategic advice to the integration efforts between Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield Universities; and under her leadership Bloomsburg has maintained a sound financial position in a challenging enrollment and budgetary landscape; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Trustees of Bloomsburg University on this 1st day of June 2022 conveys its profound gratitude and esteem to our colleague and friend for her dedicated service, prudence, unquestioned integrity, and outstanding ability as Chairperson of the Council of Trustees of Bloomsburg University.

Dr. Hanna and the Trustees expressed their gratitude and admiration for her service as well.

Trustee Bowes expressed her gratitude to Dr. Hanna and the Trustees through some of these difficult years and a special thanks to Trustees Vasta, O'Donnell, and Greenly for picking up their leadership roles. As well, thanking all Trustees for always taking the time for her and that it has been a great honor to be part of this group.

Adjournment

Trustee Bowes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Greenly, with no other items to be presented the meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.



Dr. Brian O'Donnell
Secretary

Mary Vezendy

Mary Vezendy
Coordinator of Operations