

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, December 8, 2023

The Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees held their Quarterly meeting on December 8, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. The trustees met in Monty's on the Bloomsburg campus. The public participated via the Zoom Webinar link provided. Those in attendance:

**Trustees Present – Voting Members:**

Honorable John E. Wetzel – Chairperson  
Ms. Karen Russell – Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Daniel P. Elby – At Large Officer (via zoom)  
Ms. Susan Kefover  
Mr. Patrick Henderson  
Mr. Steve Crawford  
Mr. Krystjan K Callahan (via zoom)  
Ms. Angela C. Smith  
Ms. Jessica Dodge  
Ms. Tynesha Holloway (via zoom)  
Ms. Amy Brayford  
Mr. Raymond Zaborney

**Trustees Absent:**

Mr. Michael K. Hanna, Jr. – Secretary  
Dr. Brian O'Donnell

**University Personnel**

Dr. Bashar Hanna, President  
Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, BL Campus Administrator  
Dr. Marty Wygmans, Vice President for Student Success and Campus Life, MA Campus Administrator (via zoom)  
Mr. Erik Evans, Vice President for University Advancement  
Dr. Stephen Lee, Vice President for Enrollment Management, LH Campus Administrator  
Ms. Suzanne Williamson, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Administration  
Mr. Albert Jones, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer  
Dr. Cori Myers, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness  
Dr. Ed Keller, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Eric Ness, Special Assistant to the President for Facilities and Capital Planning  
Mr. Tim Shuey, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs  
Mr. Dan Knorr, Executive Director of Economic Development & External Affairs  
Mr. William N. Walker, Interim Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing  
Ms. Mary Vezendy, Director of Operations  
Ms. Christa Lamoreaux, Executive Associate

**Student Guests**

Stephen Hollis, Commonwealth - Bloomsburg Graduate Student, Applied Exercise Physiology

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**Call to Order**

Chair Wetzel called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance. He reported The Council of Trustees met earlier today in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues, legal matters, information related to the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements, and public safety issues.

**Roll Call**

Chair Wetzel asked Mary Vezendy to conduct a roll call. Ms. Vezendy conducted a roll call of those in attendance and acknowledged a quorum was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

In accordance with House Resolution Number 32 of 1989, Chair Wetzel requested everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**Minutes of the Council of Trustees**

A motion was made by Trustee Crawford to approve the meeting minutes of the October 6, 2023 Council of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Smith; the motion was unanimously approved.

**Public Comments**

Chair Wetzel opened the meeting for public comment. There were no individuals wishing to make comments.

**Introductions**

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

Bloomsburg Campus

Dr. Noreen Chikotas, Professor, Department of Nursing

Dr. Elisabeth Culver, Associate Professor, Department of Nursing

Dr. Curt Jones, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Digital Forensics

Ms. Sue O'Donnell, Associate Professor, Visual Arts

Lock Haven Campus

Dr. Christine Offutt, Professor, Department of Psychology

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Informational Items:**

Chair Wetzel introduced Dr. Bashar Hanna, President, to provide the President's Report.

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**President's Report (Dr. Bashar Hanna)**

President Hanna reviewed his President's Report with the Trustees. He presented the following:

- University Highlights
  - The National Science Foundation has awarded a six-year, \$2.5 million grant to Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania through its Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program. The grant, available beginning in the fall semester of 2024, will fund renewable scholarships for approximately 40 students.
  - Commonwealth University - Mansfield has received a \$40,000 donation from C&N Bank in support of its Early College Program (formerly known as the Early Start Program). The Early College Program enables qualified high school students to enroll in courses taught by Commonwealth University and earn college credits while still in high school. The program offers students a 75% tuition reduction.
  - Pennsylvania Treasurer and Bloomsburg alumna Stacy Garrity visited Bloomsburg and appeared on a special Veteran's Day episode of The Common Ground podcast. The conversation focused on Treasurer Garrity's time in the military, her lessons on leadership, and several of the programs she oversees as Treasurer.
  - At its October 2023 meeting, the Council on Social Work Education's Board of Accreditation (BOA) granted a second year of candidacy to the Commonwealth University master's social work program. The program will be reviewed for Benchmark 3 and Initial Accreditation at the June 2024 BOA meeting.
  - The Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) voted unanimously at its October meeting, held at Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg, to seek a state funding increase for the 2024-25 fiscal year that would enable the Board to freeze tuition for a sixth consecutive year at all PASSHE universities as the System seeks to scale up innovations that keep costs down for students and help them make progress toward a degree.
  - Lura Good, a veteran on-air personality for Selinsgrove-based Hanna Radio has been appointed Director of the Kerby Confer Media Center. The Kerby Confer Media Center was established with a \$5.3 million gift from radio legend Kerby Confer.
  - Commonwealth University helped the Town of Bloomsburg purchase a new ladder truck. The university's contribution to the truck was \$360,000. Other funding partners include the USDA, a private source, and fire tax revenue. The Bloomsburg Fire Department and its volunteers provide critical fire coverage for our Bloomsburg location.
  - Nearly 250 Commonwealth University students from Lock Haven, Clearfield, Mansfield and Bloomsburg gathered at the Lock Haven location for a Multicultural Alliance Field Day event in September. The event included lawn games, inflatable games, food trucks, giveaways and raffles as well as an opportunity to connect with fellow students across all Commonwealth University locations.
  - On November 1, Congressman Glenn Thompson hosted the Government Outreach Program at Lock Haven. The program gives high school students an

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opportunity to learn more about government processes and meet the leaders who represent them and their families. This is the 24th year for the program at Lock Haven and the 12th year that Congressman Thompson has hosted.

- On September 28, Commonwealth University-Clearfield held its 34th annual Founders' Day convocation awards celebration in the Clearfield Academic Building multipurpose room. The event, hosted by the Clearfield Educational Foundation and Commonwealth University - Clearfield, honored 22 students with awards and scholarships.
  - Commonwealth University awarded 22 mini-grants totaling \$91,000 to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives on our campuses.
  - Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg's retired coach Jan Hutchinson was selected as one of two of the conference's representatives and finalists for the NCAA Division II 50th Anniversary Gold Award.
- Student Success
    - Following a historic 2023 season, running back Chris Collier has been named the PSAC Eastern Division Offensive Player of the Year. Collier was joined on the All-PSAC First Team by linebacker Cody Romano. In all, four Bald Eagles earned All-Conference honors.
    - For the first time in the Program's history, The Mansfield Mountaineers field hockey hosted a PSAC playoff game. After beating Bloomsburg in the quarter-finals, The Mounties took defending Conference East champions ESU – Warriors to over time and lost 3 – 2.
    - Two Lock Haven students gained a unique insight into game-day operations by working as event staff at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport this summer. Sports management students, Hannah Possinger, of East Stroudsburg, and Joshua Torrens, of Pottstown, worked the nearly two-week series, developing their skills in crowd management, customer service and time management.
    - Faculty and students from the Bloomsburg and Mansfield campuses participated in the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU) Conference held October 13-15 in Kutztown. Eleven of students presented posters at The National Association of Social Workers–Pennsylvania conference in October. The conference, "Social Work Breaks Barriers," focused on social work initiatives that aim to empower clients and client systems to overcome social/economic and environmental barriers.
    - The CU–Mansfield Mountaineer Brass Band (MBB), under the direction of Dr. Nathan Rinnert, presented its annual concert honoring United States military veterans on November 11 in the VA Hospital Auditorium in Bath, NY. The MBB returned to the Bath VA Hospital after a three-year pandemic-related hiatus.
    - Mansfield Voice students recently won recognition at the Allegheny Mountain Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions, held November 4 at Mansfield. The auditions included about 75 entries from around Pennsylvania.
    - Bloomsburg Computer Science student and CGA President, Matthew Yurkunas, put his skills to use at a summer internship in Berlin, Germany. This past

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summer, leading up to junior year, Matt wanted to experience a job that wasn't in his hometown.

**Student Spotlight**

Chair Wetzel introduced Mr. Stephen Hollis, Commonwealth - Bloomsburg Graduate Student, Applied Exercise Physiology major. Mr. Hollis gave remarks and a brief presentation.

***ACTION ITEMS:***

**Non-Instructional Emeritus**

A motion was made by Chair Wetzel to approve Ms. Brenda Pitonyak, Ms. Kathy Blesh, and Mr. David Guinn for non-instructional emeritus according to Policy 8761. Trustee Brayford seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**Athletic Coach Emeritus**

A motion was made by Chair Wetzel to approve Mr. Stuart Marvin for Athletic Coach Emeritus, according to Policy 8762. Trustee Russell seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**Manager and Administrator Emeritus**

A motion was made by Chair Wetzel to approve Ms. Linda Swisher and Dr. John Ulrich for Manager and Administrator Emeritus, according to Policy 8760. Trustee Brayford seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Chair Wetzel also noted Dr. Ulrich was nominated for faculty emeritus by the English department but is receiving Manager/Administrator Emeritus for his most recent role as an administrator.

**Fiscal Affairs**

**FY 2022-2023 Audit Approval**

Chair Wetzel introduced Mr. Andy Lee, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Mr. Lee presented the FY 2022-2023 Audit.

A motion was made by Chair Wetzel to accept the report presented on the FY 2022-2023 Audit. Trustee Henderson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Student Fee Schedule 2024 – 2025**

President Hanna and Vice President Shuey presented the proposed fee changes. Chair Wetzel stated a fee increase is not a decision the Council takes lightly. Trustee Zaborney stated the Council has kept the increase to a manageable ask for students and families. Trustee Smith made a motion to approve a 10% dining fee increase on all campus locations, housing fee increases of 2% at the Bloomsburg campus, 6% at the Lock Haven campus, and 7% at the Mansfield campus. Chair Wetzel seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Brayford made a motion to approve the \$1,000 Physicians Assistant Program Fee. Trustee Henderson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

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**Compliance Certification with Board of Governors Policy 1985-04-A**

Chair Wetzel read the Certifying Resolution for Certification of Compliance with Board of Governors Policy 1985-04-A, University External Financial Support for Commonwealth University.

Motion was made by Chair Wetzel to approve the resolution, seconded by Trustee Zaborney, the resolution was approved unanimously.

**Annual Delegation of Authority for Review of Purchases Less than the Public Bidding Threshold**

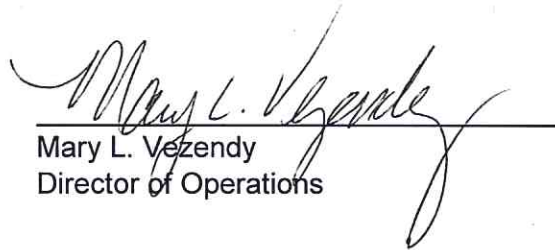
Chair Wetzel read a motion stating the Council of Trustees of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, in accordance with Act 50, section 7(a)(9), reviews negotiated or awarded contracts/purchases in excess of the public bidding threshold and will delegate the review of negotiated or awarded contracts/purchases in amounts less than the public bidding threshold to the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, which delegation shall be renewed annually. A motion was made by Chair Wetzel to approve the motion, seconded by Trustee Crawford and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

With no other items to be presented to the Council, Chair Wetzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m.



Mr. Michael Hanna, Jr.  
Secretary



Mary L. Vezendy  
Director of Operations