

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

**COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, March 8, 2024**

The Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees held their Quarterly meeting on March 8, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. The trustees met in Alumni Hall, room 307 on the Mansfield 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. Michael K. Hanna, Jr. – Secretary  
Mr. Daniel P. Elby – At Large Officer (via zoom)  
Ms. Susan Kefover  
Mr. Patrick Henderson  
Mr. Steve Crawford  
Mr. Krystjan K Callahan  
Ms. Angela C. Smith  
Ms. Jessica Dodge  
Ms. Tynesha Holloway  
Mr. Marvens Ravix  
Ms. Amy Brayford  
Mr. Raymond Zaborney  
Dr. Brian O'Donnell

**University Personnel**

Dr. Bashar Hanna, President  
Mr. Erik Evans, Vice President for University Advancement  
Dr. Ed Keller, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Dan Knorr, Executive Director of Economic Development & External Affairs  
Dr. Stephen Lee, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Lock Haven Campus Administrator  
Dr. Cori Myers, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness  
Mr. Eric Ness, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs  
Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Stacy Wagner, Chief Facilities & Safety Officer  
Mr. William N. Walker, Interim Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing  
Ms. Suzanne Williamson, Vice President for Administration and Chief of Staff  
Dr. Marty Wygmans, Vice President for Student Success and Campus Life, Mansfield Campus Administrator  
Ms. Mary Vezendy, Director of Operations  
Ms. Christa Lamoreaux, Executive Associate

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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 Callahan to approve the meeting minutes of the December 8, 2023 Council of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee O'Donnell; the motion was unanimously approved.

**Public Comments**

Chair Wetzel opened the meeting for public comment. Members of Mansfield Student Government Association commented and presented questions on student fees. Questions were acknowledged and administration will follow up with the Student Government Association.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Informational Items:**

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

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

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

- Media Report
  - Chair Wetzel was featured in several news outlets including *The Express and The Daily Item* talking about how Commonwealth University is transforming education with students at the center.
  - Also reported in the *The Express, The Daily Item, The Progress, and WPSU News* that interest in Commonwealth University is at an all-time high, with applications for admission currently up more than 22% for the 2024-25 class, including a 39% increase in applications from transfer students.
- University Highlights
  - Commonwealth University has officially been named a National Academy of Medicine Change Maker. We will be recognized at the national kick-off celebration event during the inaugural Health Workforce Well-Being day on March 11 in Washington, D.C.

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- Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania has been awarded a six-year \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program. The grant, awarded for the CU-THRIVE in STEM Project, will fund renewable scholarships for an estimated 38 students beginning in the fall 2024 semester.
- The Commonwealth University-Lock Haven Outreach for Humanity Club and the Office of Community Service recently held its annual Hunger Bowl event throughout the month of October. This year a total of nine student clubs and organizations and three faculty and staff groups participated in the competition. Those groups gathered 5,952 items to support students utilizing the Cupboard. Since 2018, the number of items donated this year was a record.
- Dr. Erin Brummett, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies on the Bloomsburg campus, has been named the 2023 Thomas L. Veenendall Advisor of the Year by the National Communication Association.
- Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg hosted commencement ceremonies on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, in Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall. Students from the Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield campuses participated. We celebrated 70 graduate students and 390 undergraduate students.
- A collaborative team of distinguished researchers, including Dr. Kyle T. Root, associate professor of chemistry at Commonwealth University-Lock Haven and co-authors at East Stroudsburg University and Lehigh University, have recently published an innovative article in the journal "Protein Science" titled "One-step site-specific S -alkylation of full-length caveolin-1: Lipidation modulates the topology of its C-terminal domain."
- Darlene Perner, professor of exceptional programs, has been awarded the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities 2024 Burton Blatt Humanitarian Award. This award recognizes individuals who, like its namesake Dr. Burton Blatt, have made a significant contribution to the fields of autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities.
- Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) has named a faculty member at three Commonwealth University locations as a recipient of the second Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Keepers of the Flame Award. Award recipients are Dr. Carroll J. Redfern, faculty emeritus at CU-Bloomsburg; Dr. Fredrick "Rick" Schulze, professor of health sciences at CU-Lock Haven; and Kim Shelton, faculty and director of TRIO Student Support Services at CU-Mansfield.
- Danny Hale, NCAA DII football coaching legend of the Bloomsburg Huskies, has gotten the call for his rightful enshrinement in the College Football Hall of Fame as part of the 2024 Induction Class, as announced recently by the National Football Foundation and ESPN.
- Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania's Department of Biochemistry, Chemistry, Engineering, and Physics has earned accreditation from the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) for two Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree concentrations: biochemistry and pre-

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medicine. The seven-year full accreditation applies across the Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield campuses in recognition of their excellence in curriculum, institutional characteristics, and faculty qualifications. The accreditation enables graduating seniors to take the national ASBMB accreditation exam and demonstrate their proficiency in biochemistry and molecular biology on a national stage.

- President Hanna hosted a Community Leaders Breakfast at the Mansfield Campus in February, where he provided various updates on initiatives and future plans at Commonwealth University to a full audience of regional partners, elected officials, and local influencers.
- In early February, President Hanna joined students, faculty, and staff at the Mansfield Campus to celebrate the opening of Commonwealth University's new Student Success Center for that location.
- Students, faculty, and staff at Commonwealth University's Clearfield Campus joined President Hanna at the start of the semester for "Popcorn with the President."
- The College of Education and Human Studies received provisional approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for all new education programs leading to teacher certification.
- The Up-Town Music Collective recently held a successful concert at CU-Lock Haven's Price Auditorium. The concert was a partnered event between Schlessinger Communications, The Clinton County Arts Council and local radio station 92.1 WSQV. With over 400 people in attendance, Price was buzzing with sounds of the 80's.
- Student Success
  - Commonwealth University-Lock Haven Women's Wrestling Hosts National Tournament. The Championship featured 12 teams, over 100 student-athletes and served as a qualifier for the upcoming national championships. Lock Haven finished second overall in the team standings, the program's highest finish in three appearances. The Bald Eagles crowned two individual champions and finished with a school-record six national qualifiers.
  - A team of Commonwealth University students recently returned to the small community of Harmons, Jamaica, along with faculty members Jennifer Bell, physician assistant studies and Amy Way, health and exercise science. The 18 undergraduate and five physician assistant graduate students represented the Lock Haven, Bloomsburg and Clearfield campuses. This is the seventh service-learning program to Jamaica for Lock Haven students led by Bell and Way and the second for Commonwealth University.
  - Four students enrolled in Commonwealth University's Master's Degree in Instructional Technology Program attended the DevLearn conference, held Oct. 25 to 27 in Las Vegas, Nev. Four students competed, and two in the program, Brittany Breland and Jessica Cebulka, won awards.
  - Members of the national fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma (STG) have focused their philanthropic efforts on expanding leadership learning at Commonwealth University-Mansfield. The STG Gamma Alpha Alumni Association, consisting of Mansfield University alumni, launched a leadership program this fall to provide a

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new opportunity for Mansfield students to participate in a Professional U-enhanced program focused on the students' success during their time at Mansfield.

- o The Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg Forensics (Speech and Debate) Team won the First Place Sweepstakes Award at the Collegiate Forensic Association's Annual Winter Tournament held at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Clearwater Beach, Fla., over the weekend of Jan. 19-20. Bloomsburg finished ahead of Wilkes University, the University of Richmond, and the University of Lynchburg. This was the team's first tournament of the 2024 Spring semester. Fourteen students competed for the Huskies, collectively winning more than 50 speech and debate awards.

**Student Spotlight**

Chair Wetzel introduced Mr. Marvens Ravix, Commonwealth University - Mansfield Biology major and newly appointed Student Trustee. Mr. Ravix gave remarks and a brief presentation.

**Winter Session Update**

Trustee Wetzel introduced Dr. Stephen Lee for the Winter Session update. Dr. Lee presented data of headcount enrollment of 1525 and FTE enrollment at 410.0 for the 23-24 winter session. Student credit hours were reported at 5,990 for the 23-24 winter session. Winter session revenue less direct expenses for 23-24 was reported at \$1,654,356.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**General Administration**

**Capital Project Request FY2023-2030**

Chair Wetzel introduced Ms. Stacy Wagner, Chief Facilities & Safety Officer. Ms. Wagner presented the Recommended Prioritization for Funding/Authorization for FY2025 to FY2030 as follows:

Priority	Project Title	Anticipated Funding
1	Lock Haven – North Hall – Demolition	FY2025-2026
2	Lock Haven – Sloan Center Lifecycle - Renovation	FY2025-2026
3	Lock Haven – Stevenson Library Renovation	FY2026-2027
4	Bloomsburg - Facilities Maintenance Building Relocation	FY2027-2028
5	Mansfield – H.U.T building - Demolition	FY2027-2028
6	Bloomsburg - Facilities Maintenance Building Relocation	FY2027-2028
7	Lock Haven – Akeley Hall - Demolition	FY2028-2029
8	Lock Haven – Robison Learning Center – Demolition	FY2030-2031

Trustee Wetzel asked for a motion to approve the Capital Project Request. A motion was made by Trustee Brayford and seconded by Trustee O'Donnell; the motion passed unanimously.

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**Advancement**  
**Honors College Naming**

Dr. Hanna gave remarks regarding the naming of the Honors College and spoke to the generosity of Stephen J. Jones, a 1983 graduate of Bloomsburg University, a legacy institution of Commonwealth University (CU), and his wife, Melanie Sanchez-Jones. They have gifted more than \$7 million to the Honors College. Their most recent \$5.6 million gift (to name the Honors College), combined with their previous \$1.5 million investment, which included renovating the Honors College residence hall on the CU-Bloomsburg campus, will help the University attract and support exceptional students from diverse backgrounds.

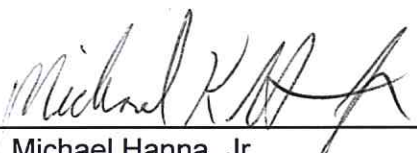
Trustee Wetzel made the following motion:

Consistent with applicable Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania policy and the terms of the generous gift received from Stephen J. Jones and Melanie Sanchez-Jones to the Bloomsburg University Foundation, the Commonwealth University honors program will be in perpetuity known as the Eileen G. Jones Honors College.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Zaborney; the motion passed unanimously.

**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.

  
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Mr. Michael Hanna, Jr.  
Secretary

  
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Mary L. Vezendy  
Director of Operations