

Council of Trustees

Quarterly Meeting

December 8, 2023



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Call to Order

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield

Roll Call

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield

Pledge of Allegiance

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield

Approval of Minutes

Public Comment Period

By Phone: *9 Raise Hand

Faculty Emeritus Recipients

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield

Faculty Emeritus

Bloomsburg

Dr. Noreen Chikotas

**Professor,
Department of Nursing**

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield



Dr. Elisabeth Culver

**Associate Professor,
Department of Nursing**

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield



Dr. Curt Jones

**Professor,
Department of Mathematics,
Computer Science and
Digital Forensics**

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield



Ms. Sue O'Donnell

**Associate Professor,
Visual Arts**

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield



Faculty Emeritus

Lock Haven

Dr. Christine Offutt

**Professor, Department of
Psychology**

President's Report

Dr. Bashar W. Hanna
President



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

University Highlights

Commonwealth University Awarded \$2.5 Million NSF Grant To Provide Scholarships

- 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.



University Highlights

C&N Bank Donates Donation to Commonwealth University - Mansfield's Early College Program

- 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.



University Highlights

PA Treasurer Stacy Garrity featured on Common Ground podcast

- 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.



University Highlights

Master's Social Work Program Earns Second Year of Candidacy Status

- 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.



University Highlights

PASSHE Board of Governors Meeting Held at Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg; Vote to Seek Funding Increase

- 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.



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University Highlights

Confer Center Director

- Radio has a new voice on Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg's campus. 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.



University Highlights

Commonwealth University Contributes to New Ladder Truck

- 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.



University Highlights

Multicultural Alliance Field Day At Lock Haven

- 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.



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University Highlights

Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson Visits Commonwealth University - Lock Haven for Government Outreach Day

- On November 1, Congressman Glenn Thompson hosted the Government Outreach Program at Lock Haven.
- The program gives high school students an 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.

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University Highlights

34th Founders' Day Convocation Awards Celebration at Commonwealth University - Clearfield

- 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.



University Highlights

Diversity, Equity And Inclusion Grants

- Commonwealth University awarded 22 mini-grants totaling \$91,000 to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives on our campuses.



University Highlights

Hutchinson Selected as PSAC Gold Award Recipient

- After a conference-wide vote by the Pennsylvania State Athlete Conference's athletic directors, senior woman administrators, and sports information directors, 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

Collier Named PSAC East Offensive Player of the Year

- 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.



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Student Success

Mansfield Field Hockey Remarkable 2023 Season

- 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.



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Student Success

Commonwealth University - Lock Haven Students Gain Industry Experience

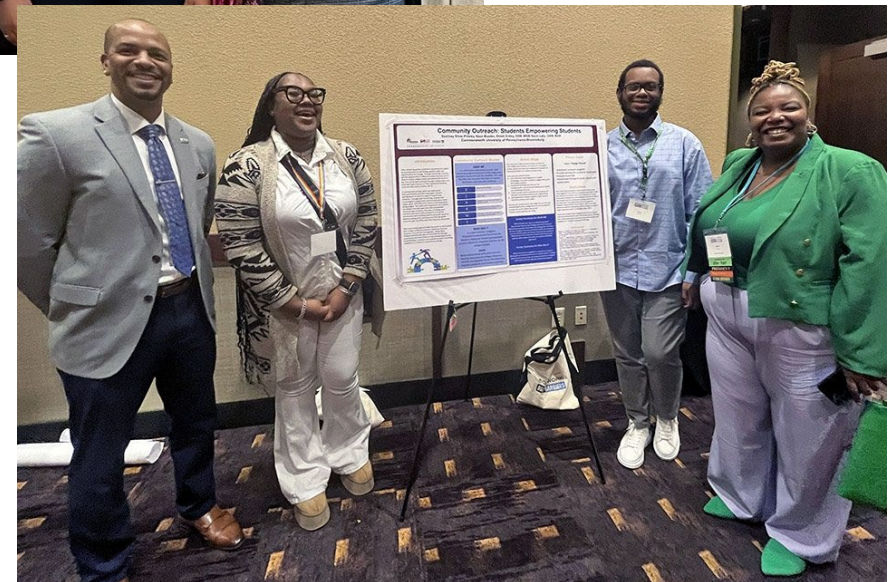
- Two Lock Haven students gained a unique insight into game-day operations by working as event staff at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport this summer.
- Sports management students, Hannah Possinger, of East Stroudsburg, and Joshua Torrens, of Pottstown, worked the nearly two-week series, developing their skills in crowd management, customer service and time management.



Student Success

Commonwealth University Students and Faculty Present At Conferences

- 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.



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Student Success

Mountaineer Brass Band Salutes Veterans

- 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.



Student Success

Commonwealth University - Mansfield Voice Students Earn Recognition

- 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.



Student Success

Yurkunas in Berlin

- Bloomsburg Computer Science student and CGA President, Matthew Yurkunas, put his skills to use at a summer internship in Berlin, Germany.
- This past summer, leading up to junior year, Matt wanted to experience a job that wasn't in his hometown.



Thank you!

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Student Spotlight

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Who Is Stephen Hollis?

- Graduate student
- Majored in Exercise Science (B.S.)
- Completing the Applied Exercise Physiology (M.S.)





Background

- Hometown: Holtsville, NY
- Sachem East High School
- Son of David and Gertha Hollis
- Brother of Malaika and Aaliyah Hollis





Awards and Achievements

-Deans List (2019-2023)

-Graduated with a 3.6 GPA (Cum Laude)

-3x Second Team All-PSAC East (2023, 2022, 2019)

-3x PSAC East Men's Soccer Athlete of the Week (sept. 25, 2023, oct. 10, 2022, sept. 13, 2021)

-2x CSC Academic All-District (2023, 2022)

-4x PSAC Scholar-Athlete (2022-23, 2021-22, 2020-21, 2019-20)

-2x D2 ADA Scholar-Athlete (2022-23, 2021-22)

Future Plans

- Upon completion of my masters, my plan is to travel and study abroad in Europe while continuing my soccer career in any way possible.
- When I return, my goal is to then begin my schooling to become a physical therapist.

Commonwealth University Bloomsburg's Impact

- My time here at Bloomsburg has not only furthered my progression as a student, but it has also helped me become the man I hope to be in the future.
- The highs and lows that I have encountered here have developed me as a person and I am very thankful for everything I have experienced.
- I am confident that I made the right decision many years ago to attend this University and I am forever grateful for all of those who have aided me during my journey.

Non-instructional Emeritus

Bloomsburg

Ms. Brenda Pitonyak

**Clerical Assistant,
Department of Athletics**



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Non-instructional Emeritus

Lock Haven

Ms. Kathy Blesh

**Clerical Assistant,
Compliance, Certification and
Teacher Education Office &
Department of Middle Level,
Secondary, and PK-12**



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Non-instructional Emeritus

Mansfield

Mr. David Guinn

**Clerical Assistant,
Library Services**



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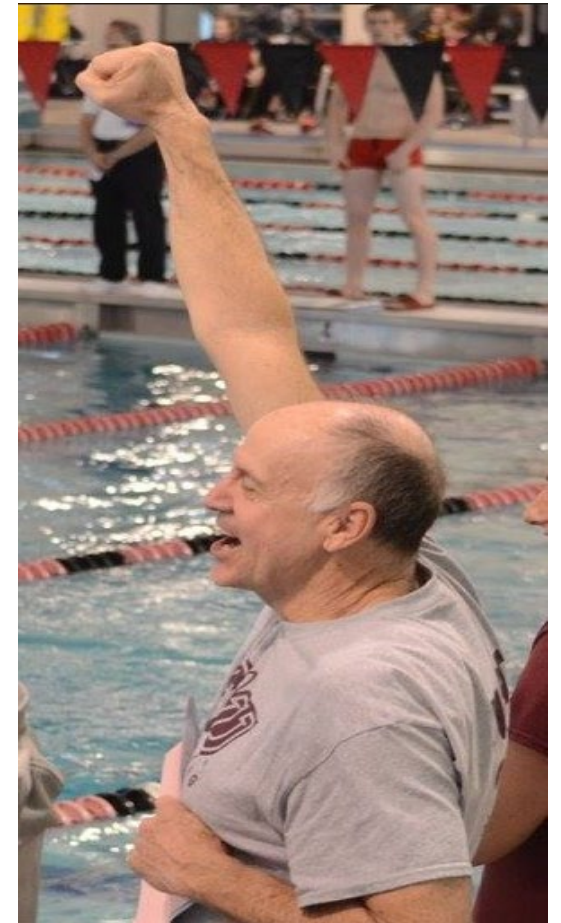
Athletic Coach Emeritus

Bloomsburg

Mr. Stuart Marvin

**Head Swim Coach,
Department of Athletics**

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Manager & Administrator Emeritus

Bloomsburg

Ms. Linda Swisher

**University Registrar,
Academic Affairs**



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Manager & Administrator Emeritus

Mansfield

Dr. John Ulrich

**Special Assistant
to the President,
Office of the President**

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Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit Approvals

Andy Lee, CPA
Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP



We'll get you there.

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Commonwealth University of PA

Audit Results Presentation

December 8, 2023

Agenda



Scope of Services
and Deliverables



Responsibility
Overview



Audit Approach



Audit Results



Required
Communications



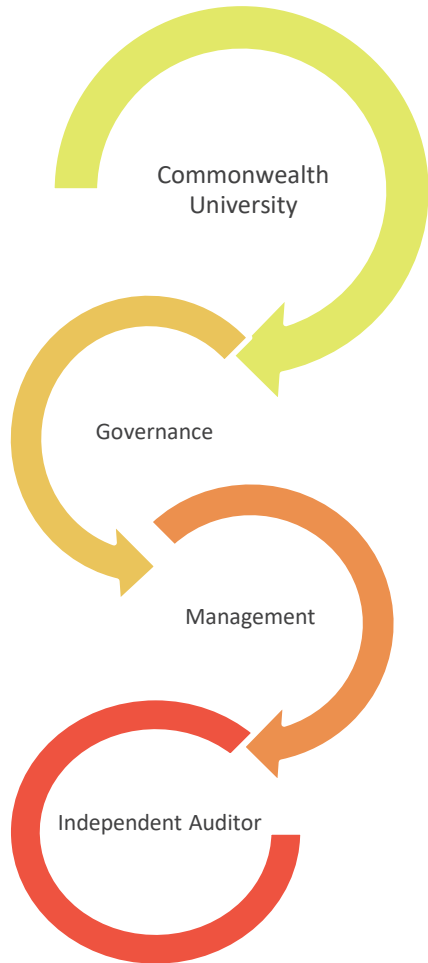
Emerging Issues



Scope of Services and Deliverables



Responsibility Overview



Governance

Oversight of the audit process and strategic direction

Policy related to external audits

Management

Preparation of financial statements

Selection of accounting policies

Design and implementation of internal controls over financial reporting and compliance

Programs to control and prevent fraud and inform auditors of known or suspected fraud

Independent Auditor

Perform an audit in accordance with GAAS

Express opinion on whether financial statements are fairly presented in conformity with GAAP in all material respects

Communicate significant matters



Audit Approach and Results



Audit Results

University's Financial Statements

- Independent Auditors' Report
 - Includes unmodified opinion
 - Emphasis of matter paragraph

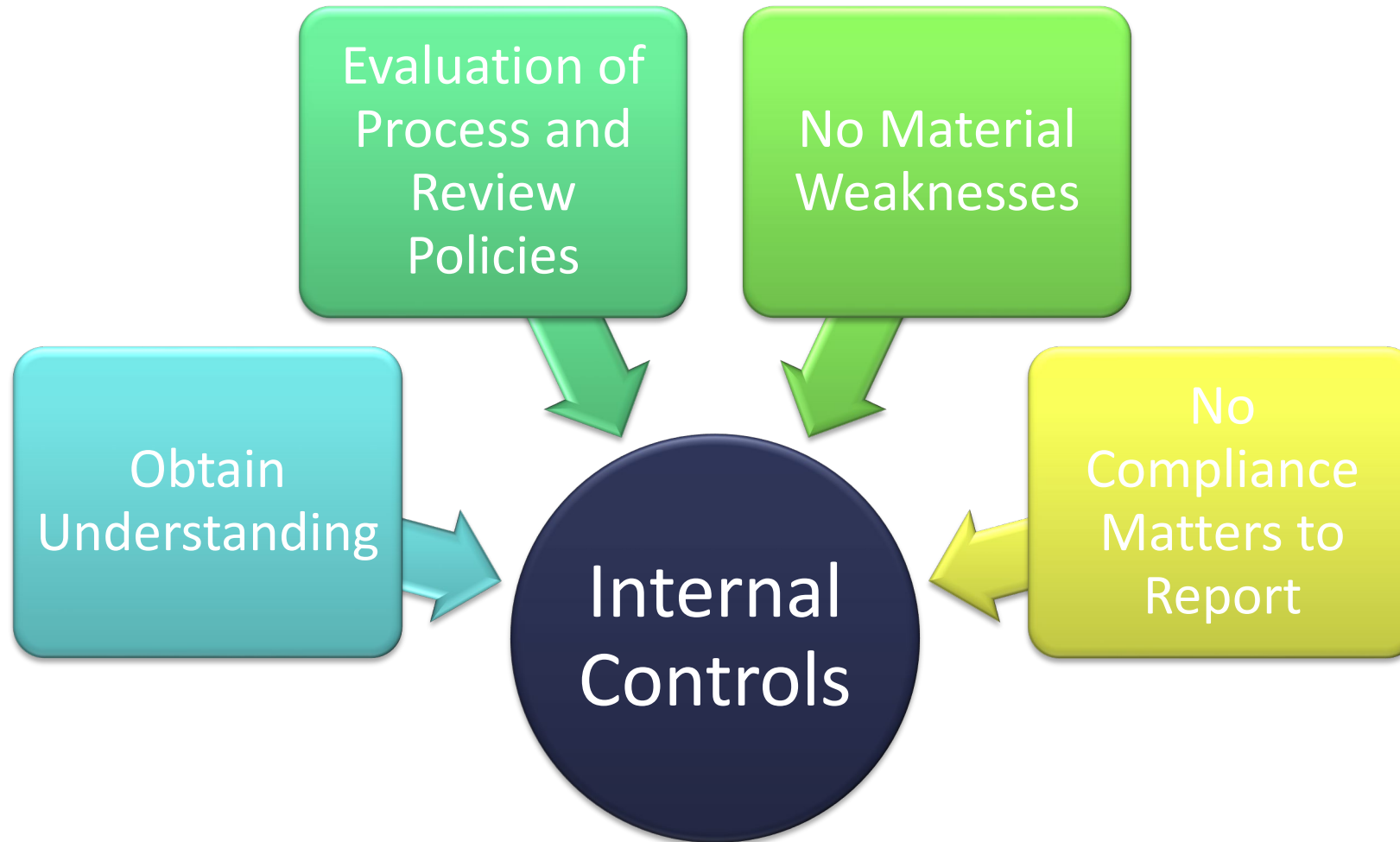
Report on Internal Controls over Financial Reporting, Compliance and Other Matters

- No material weakness in internal control noted
- No non-compliance with laws and regulations noted



Audit Results

Internal Controls



Required Communications

Overall

- Purpose is to communicate audit results to governance
- No changes in scope
- No new or changed accounting policies except for new GASB Standards (94/96)
- Disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear

Estimates

- Accounts Receivable – Allowance for Doubtful Accounts
- Useful lives assigned for depreciation
- Compensated Absences and Other Accrued Employee Benefits
- Net Pension Liability and OPEB Liability

Difficulties

- No significant difficulties encountered
- No disagreements with management
- No other findings to report
- No consultations

Other

- No Corrected and uncorrected adjustments
- Management representations are provided in a separate letter that affirms representations made throughout the audit





We appreciate the opportunity
to serve as the auditors of
Pennsylvania's State System of
Higher Education!

Andy Lee, CPA

Principal

Andrew.Lee@CLAconnect.com

267-419-1122



CLAconnect.com



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Emerging Issues in Higher Education



Higher Education Environment



Department of Education



Cybersecurity, digital transformation and technology costs



Evolving regulatory landscape



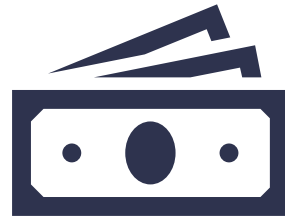
Emerging trends – ESG, student experience, value of higher education - perception



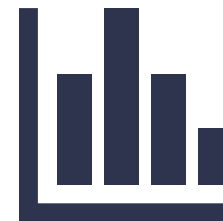
Department of Education



Related Party Disclosures



Student Loan Repayment
Restart



Federal Work Study
Reporting Changes

Cybersecurity, Digital Transformation and Technology Costs



Recent
Ransomware
Resurgence



Charting your
Digital
Transformation and
Streamline Data



Should you be
doing Penetration
Testing



Regulatory Landscape



Department of Education issues third party servicer guidance changes



Nonprofit employers provide educational benefits



Gramm-Leach Bliley Act Changes: Safeguards Rule Compliance



Emerging Trends

Environmental, Social and Governance –
ESG and your institution



Student experience



Value of higher education and it's
perception

CLA Higher Education Virtual Conference



Building Momentum: Moving Forward with Passion
and Purpose

February 20, 2024 & February 27, 2024



Proposed Student Fee Schedule 2024 - 2025

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Summary of Proposed Fees and Rate Changes

Description	% of Increase
Dining:	
Bloomsburg	6.0%
Lock Haven	6.0%
Mansfield	6.0%
Housing:	
Bloomsburg	2.0%
Lock Haven	6.0%
Mansfield	7.0%
Student Services Fee	0.0%
Physicians Assistant Program Fee	\$1,000

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

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

Other Business

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Trustee Comments

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Adjournment

Thank you!