

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Friday, December 6, 2024

The Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees held their Quarterly meeting on December 6, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. The trustees met in Alumni Hall 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. Patrick Henderson
Mr. Steve Crawford
Ms. Angela C. Smith
Dr. Brian O'Donnell (via zoom)
Ms. Jessica Dodge
Ms. Susan Kefover
Ms. Amy Brayford (via zoom)
Mr. Krystjan K Callahan
Mr. Raymond Zaborney (via zoom)

Trustees Absent:

Mr. Daniel P. Elby – At Large Officer
Mr. Michael K. Hanna, Jr. – Secretary
Ms. Janeyda Ortiz
Mr. Marvens Ravix

University Personnel

Dr. Bashar Hanna, President
Dr. Michelle Kiec, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Suzanne Williamson, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Administration
Ms. Mary Vezendy, Director of Operations
Ms. Christa Lamoreaux, Executive Associate
Mr. Erik Evans, Vice President for University Advancement, BL Campus Administrator
Dr. Stephen Lee, Vice President for Enrollment Management, LH Campus Administrator
Dr. Cori Myers, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness
Mr. Robert Thorn, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Dan Knorr, Executive Director of Economic Development & External Affairs
Mr. Doug Spatafore, Senior Director of Athletic Communications & Marketing
Ms. Stacy Wagner, Chief Facilities & Safety Officer

Student Guests

Erika Haag, Mansfield Junior, Psychology Major, Criminal Justice and Women's Studies Minors

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 collective bargaining agreements, and public safety issues.

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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 Smith to approve the meeting minutes of the October 11, 2024 Council of Trustees meetings, seconded by Trustee Callahan; the motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comments

Chair Wetzel opened the meeting for public comment. Dan McCurry, Associate Professor of Chemistry, commented he was on in attendance with a number of individuals from the College of Health, Science, and Technology to celebrate the acknowledgment of emeritus recipients. There were no additional individuals wishing to make comments.

NEW BUSINESS

APSCUF Remarks

Chair Wetzel introduced Dr. Adrienne McEvoy, Professor of History, Political Science, and Philosophy at Commonwealth University – Mansfield, to provide those remarks. Dr. McEvoy gave remarks on behalf of APSCUF.

Emeritus Recipients

Chair Wetzel introduced President Hanna. In accordance with CU Policy 02-100 on Emeritus, he announced the following faculty members were approved to receive emeritus status:

Bloomsburg Campus

Dr. Denise Davidson, Professor, Counseling and Educational Leadership
Dr. Christopher Hallen, Professor, Physical and Environmental Science
Dr. Francesca Kendris, Associate Professor, Counseling and Educational Leadership
Dr. Wendy Lee, Professor, History, Philosophy & Political Science
Dr. Youmin Lu, Professor, Mathematics, Computer Science & Digital Forensics
Dr. Michael Martin, Associate Professor, Languages, Literatures, and Writing
Dr. Darlene Perner, Professor, Early Childhood Education & Exceptionality Programs
Dr. Julie Vandivere, Professor, Languages, Literatures, and Writing

Lock Haven Campus

Dr. Mark Cloud, Professor, Psychology
Dr. Marjorie Maddox Hafer, Professor, Languages, Literatures, and Writing

Mansfield Campus

Dr. Brian Loher, Professor, Psychology

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Chair Wetzel thanked all receiving this honor for their dedicated service to our students and the University.

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 as follows:

- This fall CU celebrated Homecoming at Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield campuses with various events engaging students, alumni, faculty, staff, and local communities.
- All three campus police departments earned Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation (PLEAC), placing CU among just ten higher education institutions in Pennsylvania to receive this recognition.
- The Bloomsburg campus welcomed "Rush," a K9 explosive detection dog who completed training last month. Rush will enhance campus and community safety.
- Dan Knorr, CU's Executive Director of Economic Development and External Affairs, joined WVIA's Keystone Edition Business panel to discuss challenges and innovations in Pennsylvania higher education and CU's commitment to providing an affordable, high-quality education for our students.
- CU-Bloomsburg launched "It Starts With Us" Campaign, aiming to raise \$100 million to provide transformative support for students and the campus community.
- Transformative Gifts made to CU-Mansfield include
 - A \$300,000 contribution from Edith Johnson's trust, made in her memory by Ken and Charles Johnson, to support music students at CU-Mansfield.
 - Mark Doherty '95 donated \$500,000 for student-athlete scholarships.
 - Professor Emeritus Roger Maisner committed \$1 million to Mansfield athletics scholarships—the largest gift in Mountaineer Athletics history.
- Former Bald Eagle men's soccer player Michael Bobby '83 was celebrated with the naming of the men's soccer coach's office. The endowed Michael Bobby '83 Memorial Scholarship was also announced with more than \$40,000 raised thanks to the Bobby family, friends and his Phi Mu Delta fraternity brothers.
- Former Pennsylvania Governor and Bloomsburg alumnus Mark Schweiker '75 hosted two public fireside chats in Carver Hall's Gross Auditorium on October 24.
- Lock Haven's "Haven Cupboard" celebrated its 5th year, marking a milestone in supporting students with essential resources. WNEP covered the event. The Cupboard has been at its current location at East Campus for a year and serves approximately 150 students a week.
- Over 20 CU students contributed to game-day operations at the MLB Little League Classic in Williamsport.
- CU-Bloomsburg ranked 8th nationally by Washington Monthly for supporting women in STEM (Chemistry).
- CU-Mansfield earned top-30 rankings in social mobility and research, as well as a spot in the top 50 Bachelor's Colleges.

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- The ZIPD Business Conference connected CU students and high schoolers with alumni and professionals for career insights. More than 600 CU Students participated, and 70 alumni returned and provided conference sessions.
- CU-Mansfield hosted its second Model UN conference with over 130 high school participants, guided by faculty and student volunteers. Dr. Jonathan C. Rothermel, associate professor of political science, organized the event with support from Mansfield students and Dr. Jeff Bosworth, Chair of the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy.
- Jake Watson, a senior at Lock Haven, participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity in Chemistry (SUROC) at the University of North Carolina (UNC). His research explored the reaction in making cyclopropanes using a dialkyl sulfone reagent.
- CU-Lock Haven's Gwen Lloyd was named the 2024 PSAC Women's Cross Country Champion Scholar. Gwen is a senior in the special education and early childhood education dual degree program and has held a 4.0 grade point average through 144 credit hours.
- The Careers in Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CASSH) conference featured keynote speeches, alumni panels, and networking opportunities for CU students on all campuses. The professional development conference for students featured a keynote address, alumni panels, and networking opportunities for students.
- The following were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame:
 - Bloomsburg: Jen Bryan '03 (women's basketball), Nicole Hartranft '04 (field hockey), Christine Krebs '01 (women's soccer), Pete Rinella '95 (wrestling) and Vanessa Sterner '02 (softball).
 - Lock Haven: Xuan Gao '13 (volleyball), Lenny Long '75 (men's soccer), Pat Rudy '77 (field hockey/lacrosse), Brittany (Rehrig) Sausen '13 (swimming) and Jerry Swope '66 (men's wrestling).
 - Mansfield: Randall Beasley '89 (football), Lee Brannon '00 (football), Katrina Brumfield '08 (women's track & field) and Jessica Scordino '14 (women's cross country/track & field).
- The work and scholarship of students in the Eileen G. Jones Honors College was presented and celebrated with a reception at CU-Bloomsburg December 3. Fourteen graduating seniors were recognized with an Honors College Medallion.
- New Gifts and Pledges were reported at a total for all CU of \$51,094,2113 since integration.
- Integration Enrollment trends were presented by FTE and headcount from years 2021-22 to 2024-25.

Student Spotlight

Chair Wetzel introduced Ms. Erika Haag, Mansfield Junior, Psychology Major, Criminal Justice and Women's Studies Minors, Ms. Haag gave remarks and a brief presentation.

Student Fees

Chair Wetzel introduced Mr. Robert Thorn, Interim Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Thorn presented proposed student fee changes which will be an action item at the March, 2025 Trustee meeting.

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Chair Wetzel thanked participants for their presentations on information items and moved on to action items.

ACTION ITEMS:

Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Self Study

Dr. Cori Myers presented the MSCHE self-study report and next steps. Trustees were reminded of the team visit March 23-26, 2025. As required by MSCHE, Dr. Myers made a call for COT endorsement of the draft self-study. Chair Wetzel made the motion to endorse the MSCHE Self Study as presented. Trustee Crawford seconded the motion, all trustees endorse, none oppose.

Fiscal Affairs

FY 2023-2024 Audit Approval

Chair Wetzel introduced Mr. Andy Lee, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Mr. Lee presented the FY 2023-2024 Audit. A motion was made by Chair Wetzel to accept the report presented on the FY 2023-2024 Audit. Trustee Callahan seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

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 Callahan, the resolution was approved unanimously.

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

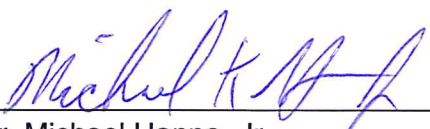
Chair Wetzel read a motion stating the Council of Trustees of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, in accordance with Act 50, section 7(a)(9), reviews negotiated or awarded contracts/purchases in excess of the public bidding threshold and will delegate the review of negotiated or awarded contracts/purchases 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 Callahan and unanimously approved.

Other Business

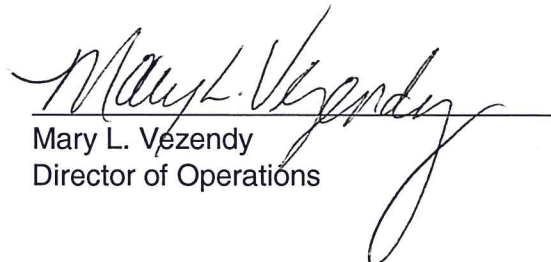
No other business or comments noted.

Adjournment

With no other items to be presented to the Council, Chair Wetzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:20 p.m.



Mr. Michael Hanna, Jr.
Secretary



Mary L. Vezendy
Director of Operations

