Bloomsburg Local Assembly Minutes

Wednesday, September 9th , 2026 @ 3:00 pm
Hartline G 42 and Zoom

Attendance: Elizabeth Rakie, Meliannie Castillo, Kelli Graham, Lauri Green, Toni Bell, Eric Hawlrelak, Chris Lapos, Jerome Manley, Tom Kreschy, Julie Kontos, Tena Maurer, Michelle Ker, Jeff Osgood, Wren Fritsky, Tess Fosse, Lisa Sharpe, Rachel Shaffer, Mark Decker, Heather Feldhaus, Sara Barchik, Heidi Warner, Gilbert Dobak, Megan Wein, Kendra Rockwell, Michael Coffta, William Barnes, Dawn Ritter, Kevin Lally, Brad Lint, Jess Heid, Amy Laubscher, Adam Creasy, Amanda Wenner, Cam Wein, Christian Grandzol, Michael McFarland, Jerome Dvorak, Doug Spatafore, Rita Carey, Jason Genovese, Andira Dodge, Karinne Force, Gail Jasman, Megan Wein, Maramonne Houseknecht, Vanessa Kahen, Melissa Buck, Kevin Partridge, Erin Heidlauf, Ed Mooney, Matt Slotkin, Zack Rogers, Jim Fiamoncini, Lisa Olander, Emmy Borst, Amanda Kern, JT Singh, Ashley Newlen, Pamela Kathcart, Mary Vezendy, George Rusczyk, Eric Foster, Lynda Michaels, Krisy Meeker, Tanya Bombicca, Stephanie DePalmer, Madison Beaver, Blair Brown, Tammy Detterbeck, Jennifer Turnbough, Megan Wein, Katherine Kollar, Tina Dorshefski, Kelly Foran, Kara Workman, Angela Boswell, Jennifer Hunsinger, Sherry Moore, Amy Way, Gary Goodman, Elizabeth Dickinson, Jenna Spaid, Eric Lippincott, Bo Miller, Stephanie Bissinger, Eric Lippincott, Suzanne Swartz, Samantha Shoup, Melissa Watts, John Kula, Emmy Borst, Barry Minemyer, Rashmika Ramlall, Gretchen Osterman, Naomi D'Angelo, Juan Palacios, Jessy Defenderfer, Christian Grandzol, Rita Carey, Ronda Mariani, Asa Kelley, Neil D'Amato

1) Call to Order: Jowi Doreen (3:01)
2) Minutes Approved
3) Announcements:
   a) Please see CU Senate Website for membership, policies, and schedule.
   b) CU Strategic Plan:
      i) Gave a strategic plan update and refresh: Want to communicate more with the greater CU community
      ii) Priorities: Students at the center
      iii) Why refresh: Want to gauge progress on current strategic plan and make sure the plan remains relevant and responsive to current needs and environment
   c) 2026-2027 Constitutional Amendments: Nothing formal yet
4) Committee Reports

   a) Executive Committee
      i) General Changes: Two meetings a semester giving more opportunities to submit and review policies.
      ii) Elections: No Report
      iii) Space and Facilities: No report
   b) Academic Policy
      - 7 policies under review
      - Meeting next Friday
      i) Enrollment Management: No report

ii) IT Subcommittee: No Report

c) Advancement Committee
   - Met with leadership
   - 4 policies being looked at
   - Committee changes

d) DEI
   - 2 policies for first read in November

e) Finance
   - Meeting with leadership 9/16

f) Student Affairs: No report
   i) First Year Experience
      - Working on Exception Policy
      - Meeting with leaders

5) Constituency Reports

a) Leadership
   - Townhall 9/14 at 3:00
   - Expected 5% tuition increase and got 4.3%
   - Management forgoing pay raises
   - Budget
     i) Manfield got completely paid off
     ii) Bloomsburg got and additional 10 million (first time Bloom has received supplemental funds)
     iii) Lockhaven still have a lot of debt
     iv) Asked for 29 million for next year
   - New Hires must now go through the Chancellor's Office
   - Not allowed to access Central Reserve
   - Told July 13th must do the following
     i) Balanced budget
     ii) Address deferred maintenance
     iii) Faculty compensation cannot exceed 100% of net tuition revenue
   - Overly generous on scholarship, depleted all E&G budget on scholarships
     i) How many students would be impacted if we remove all scholarship? Answer: Around 20% of incoming freshmen

   - Retrenchment
     i) 30.25% of faculty are eligible for retirement (130 faculty)
     ii) 70 are 62 or older
     iii) Trying to reduce overall costs to reduce retrenchment number
     iv) How does phased retirement work in this case? Answer: It all gets factored in.
     v) Every retirement decreases the number of retrenchments needed
     vi) How are decisions being made? Feels like not be given much information. Answer: Challenging because of deadlines

vii) If we cut any more, aren't we in danger of losing programs? Answer: It is possible but will come down to value judgements

- Questions about retirement benefits
  i) Have a meeting for all employees to discuss how benefits work in retirement
- Enrollment
  i) Expected to come in close to target
- Student concern: What does 70 faculty leaving CU mean for student impact?
  i) More students per class and fewer sections
  ii) How does this impact labs that are capped by program mandates? Increase the size of the lecture part of the class
- Adjunct question: Can you fill the void left behind in retrenchment with adjuncts
  i) Can replace positions but must look at retrenched faculty first.
  ii) One for one in unit not department
  iii) Can hire temps if no one was retrenched in the department
  iv) Any departures count towards the number of retrenchments needed
- Staff retrenchment around same level as faculty
  i) Two general buckets for staff, SUA and Non-SUA
  ii) All faculty and staff will know as of January 15th and last day is June 2027
  iii) Will help advocate for staff placement
  iv) Will try to move current staff into open vacancies
- Overall goal in retrenchment at all levels is to do this in a humane way

b) Alumni and Professional Engagement: No report
c) Alumni Association: No report
d) Strat Comm & Marketing Update
   - Forms to be used on all requests
   - Branding and Venders approved
   - Working on Social Media
e) Athletics
   - Average fall GPA for over 700 student athletes was 3.34
   - 44th Hall of Fame on October 25th with 7 new inductees this year
   - Pilot program with Turkey Hill to create Husky Lager that will be sold at games, starting with football
f) Student Government
   - Represent students on many platforms
   - Support student activities and have scholarships programs
   - Working to increase collaborations between campus community and students
   - Created orientation stories to increase first year involvement, allowing these new students know there is someone there who cares about their concerns

- Working to increase awareness of the student governing board and the resources they have available to student

g) Center for Teaching and Learning: No Report

6) Remarks for the Good of the Order
   - Why are books so expensive?
     i) University does not control the bookstore or dining hall

7) Adjournment (4:43)