

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Friday, October 6, 2023

The Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees held their Quarterly meeting on October 6, 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:

Ms. Karen Russell – Vice Chairperson
Mr. Michael K. Hanna, Jr. – Secretary
Mr. Daniel P. Elby – At Large Officer
Dr. Brian O'Donnell
Ms. Susan Kefover
Mr. Patrick Henderson
Mr. Steve Crawford
Ms. Angela C. Smith
Ms. Jessica Dodge
Ms. Tynesha Holloway
Ms. Amy Brayford
Mr. Raymond Zaborney (via zoom)

Trustees Absent:

Honorable John E. Wetzel – Chairperson
Mr. Krystjan K Callahan

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 University Affairs
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, Coordinator of Operations

Student Guests

Thobernia Augustin, Bloomsburg Senior, Nursing Major

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Call to Order

Trustee Russell called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance. She 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

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

Public Comments

Trustee Russell opened the meeting for public comment. There were no individuals wishing to make comments.

Minutes of the Council of Trustees

A motion was made by Trustee O'Donnell to approve the meeting minutes of the May 5, 2023 Council of Trustees meetings, seconded by Trustee Hanna; the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Naming of School of Nursing

Trustee Russell introduced Dr. Bashar Hanna. Dr. Hanna gave remarks in recognition of Ed and Julie Breiner's most recent gift received by the Bloomsburg University Foundation, for the benefit of Commonwealth University and announced the naming of the newly established School of Nursing the Ed and Julie Breiner School of Nursing. Mr. Breiner gave remarks and there was a presentation of gifts from the Nursing Department to the Breiner's as well.

A motion was made by Trustee Russell to approve the Naming of the School of Nursing to the Ed and Julie Breiner School of Nursing. Trustee Crawford seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items:

Trustee Russell 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:

- University Highlights

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

- Commonwealth University began the academic year with a 12% Increase in first-year students, 26% increase in new graduate students. This year's incoming first-year class includes students from throughout Pennsylvania as well as students from as far away as Arizona, Oregon, and Washington. The class includes more than 250 new honor students and an increase in the average high school grade point average.
- Commonwealth University will launch a partnership with Google as part of a larger partnership between Google and Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) that will reach thousands of students and workers across Pennsylvania, with training for some of the state's most in-demand jobs, including those within the communities near the Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, Mansfield, and Clearfield locations.
- The State System Board of Governors voted unanimously to freeze tuition for the 2023-24 academic year. In-state undergraduate tuition at all CU locations will remain at \$7,716 for a sixth year (2018-19 - 2023-24). If tuition had kept pace with inflation since 2018, it would be 21% higher today, or \$9,336.
- Commonwealth University's special education program was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to accelerate programming for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification. Commonwealth University was one of only 15 universities in Pennsylvania awarded a portion of the \$1.5 million grant.
- Commonwealth University-Mansfield hosted State Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, State Representative Jared Solomon, America 250PA Executive Director Cassandra Coleman, and Deborah Rudy of State Senator Gene Yaw's office for an Infrastructure Improvements and Projects Committee, at which testifiers from throughout the Northern Tier provided project ideas for the region's development.
- Commonwealth University-Mansfield recently received donations totaling \$20,000 from Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU). The donations included \$15,000 in scholarships and a \$5,000 general donation to the university to support campus programs, financial literacy education and other areas of need.
- Fourteen Commonwealth University students, from the Mansfield and Lock Haven, recently returned from studying abroad in the Central American country of Belize. The students were part of a faculty-led, short-term study abroad program that has been introducing students to Belize since 2014. For most of the students, it was their first time leaving the country, and for at least five students, it was their first time on an airplane.
- Commonwealth University has launched a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Informatics degree program that will prepare nurses for leadership and educational roles. The entirely online MSN Informatics program consists of 21 credits of nursing courses and 18 credits of concentration in information technology management and analytics. All of Commonwealth University's nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.
- Geography faculty member, Jennifer Haney, was a former CIA Analyst. Professor Haney is an expert in evaluating public risks and hazards. In her career, Haney has been unafraid of taking risks herself. As an associate

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

professor of environmental, geographical, and geological sciences at Commonwealth University, Haney is both a Certified Emergency Manager and former CIA analyst. A 2003 graduate of Bloomsburg, Haney was originally an elementary education major. But a general education class in environmental issues and choice inspired her to switch her major to geography with an emphasis in environmental planning.

- Commonwealth University has been awarded a three-year \$400,000 Improving Undergraduate STEM Education grant from the National Science Foundation. Co-principal investigators on the grant are William Calhoun, Professor and Chair of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Digital Forensics, Jennifer Whisner, Associate Professor of Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences, David DeVallance, Associate Dean of the College of Science and Technology.
- Commonwealth University is pleased to report that all terms of the 2020 Robb et al. case settlement agreement have been reached, including the addition of multiple women's sports—tennis, wrestling, and golf—at Lock Haven. Additional opportunities and enhancements of our facilities have been made to ensure all student athletes at Lock Haven will continue to have the opportunity to have exceptional academic and competitive experiences. The notice filed September 27 in U.S. Middle District Court states the parties agree the former Lock Haven University has met its obligations under the settlement agreement.
- Student Success
 - Chris Valdez, of Lock Haven, began his career as a student at Lock Haven in the Fall of 2018 as a marine biology major but his love of sports pushed him in a different direction, which led to a significant change his major and career path. Valdez, who graduated from Commonwealth University-Lock Haven in May with a master's degree in sport management, switched majors his sophomore year after working track and field high school invites at Lock Haven. During the Fall 2021 semester, Valdez began working in the Sports Information Department as a graduate assistant under Doug Spatafore, senior director of athletic communications and marketing.
 - At the end of each academic year, students of Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg have the option of donating their unused FLEX dollars from their dining accounts so food and household items can be purchased to support the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard. FLEX is money used for purchases at campus dining venues beyond a student's set number of meals each week. This year Bloomsburg students donated more than \$7,100, allowing ARAMARK, the campus dining service, to purchase items for the Food Cupboard that were delivered on May 30. Over the last five years, students have donated more than \$30,000, which is used to purchase food.
 - The Commonwealth University-Lock Haven Student Activities Office recently announced their 2023 Leadership and Service Awards. The Leadership Awards honor both student and advisor service to clubs and organizations during the academic year. All names are submitted by nomination to the Student Activities Office from the campus community and a committee from student activities

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

reviews all nominations and decides the winners. This year's award winners are as follows:

Student Organization of the Year

Eagle Eye Student Newspaper

Outstanding New Student Organization

LHU Club Softball

Collaborative Program of the Year

Dance Marathon - Circle K Club

Outstanding Community Service Project

Virtual 5K for Mental Health Awareness Month - Clinical Mental Health Counseling Club

On Campus Program of the Year

KDRnival Benefiting the B+ Foundation - Kappa Delta Rho

Outstanding Leaders on Campus

Robert Rupert - Geoscience

Andi Franoi - Global Honors and Health Science

Legacy Award

Kerri Hoover - Eagle Eye Student Newspaper

Unsung Hero Award - Student

Cleia Stern - Eagle Eye Student Newspaper

Unsung Hero Award - Faculty/Staff

Dr. Nicole Burkholder and Dr. Lisette Schillig - English Club

Advisor of the Year

Dr. Tracey Cummings - English Club and University Players

- o Manuel Gutierrez, a December 2022 graduate of Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg has been awarded a prestigious fellowship by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Gutierrez is one of 62 recipients nationwide to receive a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship.

Student Spotlight

Trustee Russell introduced Ms. Thobernia Augustin, Bloomsburg campus senior majoring in nursing for the Student Spotlight, Ms. Augustin gave remarks and a brief presentation.

Fall Enrollment Update

Dr. Stephen Lee presented fall 2023 enrollment data for each campus.

Trustee Russell thanked participants for their presentations on information items and moved on to action items.

ACTION ITEMS:

Fiscal Affairs

2023-2024 Budget Approval (Mr. Tim Shuey)

The Educational and General Operations (E&G) Budget Request Summary was presented and referenced as exhibit C in the agenda packet. Trustee Russell made a motion to accept the 2023-2024 budget as presented; second by Trustee Elby, the 2023-2024 budget motion passed unanimously.

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

Academic Affairs

Approval of Academic Programs (Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs)

The new academic program array for CU consisting of 139 undergraduate majors, 70 undergraduate minors, 11 undergraduate certificate programs, 32 graduate degree programs, 5 graduate degree certificates, and 4 associate degree programs was presented and referenced as exhibit D in the agenda packet. Trustee Russell made a motion to approve the academic programs as presented; second by Trustee Smith, the academic programs motion passed unanimously.

Other Business Trustees

Action item: Slate of Officers

The Council nominated the following individuals to serve another year as officers of the Council of Trustees for a term starting October 6, 2023:

Honorable John E. Wetzel - Chairperson

Ms. Karen Russell – Vice Chairperson

Mr. Michael K. Hanna, Jr. – Secretary

Mr. Daniel P. Elby – At Large Officer

Trustee Russell asked for a motion to approve the slate of officers for Commonwealth University Council of Trustees as presented; a motion was made by Trustee Henderson, second by Trustee Smith, the slate of officers' motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan Endorsement (Dr. Cori Myers)

Following an overview and presentation of the Strategic Plan that has been discussed and presented in several forums over the past several months, Trustee Russell made a motion to endorse and approve the strategic plan as presented; second by Trustee Brayford, the endorsement and approval of the strategic plan motion passed unanimously.

Academic Affairs/Faculty Acclamation for New Curriculum (Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs)

Following the acknowledgement and dedication of the individuals responsible for building the new curriculum for Commonwealth University, Dr. Rogers-Adkinson read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Commonwealth University accepted the unprecedented challenge of revising the entire curriculum of the University; and

WHEREAS, the faculty prioritized the needs of the students to ensure a unified high-quality educational experience; and contributed extensive time, talent, and collaboration within their departments to develop the new syllabi and programs of Commonwealth University; and

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth University department chairpersons led their colleagues through this arduous process; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Curriculum Committee developed a process for reviewing all new curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Curriculum Committee and University Curriculum Committee reviewed more than 2200 individual curriculum documents over an academic year; and

WHEREAS; Leadership and staff in the Office of the Provost, including the academic deans, provided extensive counsel, guidance and review to their college curricula;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Trustees of Commonwealth University on this 6th day of October 2023 conveys its profound gratitude and esteem to our faculty, staff and colleagues for their dedicated service and outstanding development of the new curriculum of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania

Adjournment

With no other items to be presented to the Council, Trustee Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting 3:10 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

Michael Hanna

Mr. Michael Hanna, Jr.
Secretary

Mary Vezendy

Mary L. Vezendy
Director of Operations