

ACTION

Council of Trustees

Shippensburg University
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Council of Trustees

Friday, May 3, 2024

Public Meeting Minutes

The Council of Trustees of Shippensburg University met on Friday, May 3, 2024 at 2 1:45PM in CUB MPR A as well as visible through a live stream.

Attendance: Doug Harbach, Bill Gindlesperger, Andrew Alosi, Glen Grell, George McElwee, Matthew Steck, Ashley Loper, Moriah Hathaway, Rangeline DeJesus and Bryan Lowe were in attendance.

Absent: Toni Marchowsky

Call to Order

Chairperson Doug Harbach called the meeting to order at 1:46 PM. He then led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – none

Board Action Items

ACTION: The Published Agenda was motioned for approval by Trustee DeJesus and seconded by Trustee Gindlesperger. Motion approved unanimously.

ACTION: Meeting minutes from February 16, 2024 was motioned for approval by Trustee Steck and seconded by Trustee DeJesus. Passed unanimously.

ACTION: Governance Committee led by Trustee Lowe motioned to approved the slate of candidates for the Executive team for 2024-2025 as chair, Doug Harbach, vice chair, George McElwee, and secretary, Bill Gindlesperger. Seconded by Trustee Hathaway. Motion approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Patterson provided the following updates to our Trustees earlier in the day:

From the Division of Academic Affairs

Associate Provost, Tracy Schoolcraft presented the following information on behalf of Interim Provost Nicole Hill for Academic Affairs:

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ACTION: Trustee DeJesus motioned to approve the recommendation to submit the teacher waiver to address the area of concern on FA1 that needs to be corrected. Trustee Hathaway seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

ACTION: Trustee Lowe motioned to approve the submission of the NFS application Passed unanimously. Trustee Loper seconded. Motion approve unanimously.

This year has been replete with accomplishments and accolades because of the hard work, dedication, innovation, and thoughtfulness of our faculty, staff, and students. One recent exemplar of our collective spirit of leadership and commitment is our Minds@Work Conference that we hosted last week. We had 259 student participants and 48 faculty research sponsors. This is an increase of 35 students and 8 faculty since last year. Eighteen departments were represented. I was deeply impressed with the student work and the level of engagement and participation by our faculty. The event was well-organized, well-attended, and exemplary. I was incredibly proud of Minds@Work and the ways in which the conference honors our commitment to nurturing high impact learning for our students. I want to personally thank and recognize Margaret, Kim, Turi, Kirk, Kate, George, Alix, Laurie, Joseph, Mengzhu, Joao, and Rob. The success of this signature program of excellence is because of their commitment and initiative through the planning and implementation stages.

As another exemplar of excellence, Ship's Academic Entry & Veterans Benefits has received Military Friendly – Gold Distinction for the 2024-25 academic year. This marks a huge accomplishment as this is our third year in a row for receiving the Military Friendly distinction and we have made steady improvements, going from Military Friendly, to Military Friendly – Silver, now to Military Friendly Gold.

How do we compare to other PASSHE Schools:

- West Chester University has received the Military Friendly School distinction since 2014, and the Military Friendly School Gold Status distinction for the last three years.
- In 2022, Millersville University received the Silver classification for being Military Friendly from Victory Media
- IUP was recognized as a Top 10 Large Public Military-Friendly university by Victory Media and a Best for Vets University.
- The other PASSHE schools either don't have this distinction or don't request to be audited for the MF status.

I am thrilled to announce that our Investment Management Program (IMP) portfolio has secured an impressive 2nd place in the equity hybrid category at the Quinnipiac University's Global Asset Management Education (GAME) Forum. This recognition is a testament to the exceptional talent and hard work of our faculty and students. With over 1,300 students from more than 120 universities worldwide participating in the in-person conference experience, this achievement underscores the outstanding performance of our IMP

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team on a global platform. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our faculty members, Dr. Ming-Shiun Pan, Dr. Fan Liu, and Dr. June Pham, whose guidance and expertise have been instrumental in steering the program towards success. Their commitment to excellence has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in this remarkable accomplishment. This achievement highlights our competitive edge and reinforces our reputation as a leader among AACSB accredited business program. The relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation within our university has brought us to this point. I am proud of everyone involved in this incredible achievement, and I urge us to continue striving for excellence and inspiring future generations of investment professionals.

As the semester end rapidly approaches, we continue to be diligent and industrious in our efforts to support student success. As one example, our Learning Center has had 3,390 student contacts across services as of 4/19 surpassing the total number of student contacts from spring 2023. The Continuing Academic Progress and Success (CAPS) program has met with 193 distinct students on academic probation for a total of 1,309 academic recovery meetings as of 4/25.

As we look forward to summer term A, our faculty will travel abroad with 58 Ship students on six different study abroad programs. They will visit locations including Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Ireland, and Spain. Departments represented in this group include Biology, Geography-Earth Science, Global Languages and Cultures, MBA and Political Science as well as the Honors College.

I would also like to share an update on our OneSIS migration project as we have accomplished some significant milestones. Students registered for Fall 2024 term in OneSIS and Summer term in legacy SIS. No major issues were identified, and overall Student registration went very well. Also, Degree Audit went live in OneSIS with Registration. We have completed testing of ISIR processing in OneSIS with updates from Department of Education. Financial Aid module go-live scheduled for mid-May 2024. As we look forward, Student Accounts end-to-end testing is scheduled for May 2024, and Accounts Receivable module is on track to go live in July 2024. Thank you again to Cathy and Ravi as well as our colleagues in IT, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Admissions, Student Accounts, and our faculty as we navigate this project.

As we look forward to Commencement next weekend, we are poised to confer undergraduate degrees for approximately 670 students and graduate degrees for approximately 220 students. It is my pleasure to share that we will celebrate the very first degree conferral of our new B. S. in Health Sciences program. As you know, this program was approved in Fall 2023 and we have been building our admissions pipeline into the program to begin with new students in Fall 2024. Because of an inter-University major transfer from Biology, one student, Samaya Sharper, has been tentatively approved to graduate in August with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences. This student will participate in our undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 11th. This is a very exciting time for us as a University and a testament to vision, pertinacity, and innovation.

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On behalf of Interim Provost Nicole Hill, I want to conclude with deep appreciation for the unwavering support and encouragement Academic Affairs has received from the Council of Trustees. Nicole wanted me to share her gratitude for your trust in her work and for the many ways in which you amplify the exemplary work of our faculty, staff, and students. Thank you to each of you in this room, and I look forward to our collective work as we stand together and amplify the transformational educational opportunities Shippensburg University can provide to our region.

From the Division of Administration & Finance

Dr. Wilson updated the Trustees on information related to Administration and Finance.

ACTION: Trustee Grell motioned to approve the Capital Budget priorities for 2024. Trustee DeJesus seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ACTION: Trustee DeJesus motioned to approve the 2024-2025 Fee Schedule. Trustee Gindlesberger seconded and it passed unanimously.

ACTION: Trustee Grell motioned to approve the Reaffirmation of Fee Waivers for 24-25. Trustee McElwee seconded and it passed unanimously.

Purchases and contracts as well as personnel actions were shared since the last trustee meeting.

From the Division of Enrollment Management

Dr. Megan Luft updated the trustees on the following:

Since our last Council of Trustees meeting, we have begun to receive ISIRs, the student information from the FAFSA. We have received over 2,500 and are finalizing packaging those new students today, May 3rd.

I am happy to report because of the admissions staff's efforts since September 2023, we have hit our 2024 goals for applications and admits as well as surpassed 2023 point-in-time data to aid in achieving our enrollment target of 1125 for the first time in college. We are currently falling behind 2023 point-in-time data for deposits for both transfer and freshman as it relates to the delay in financial aid packages. We are excited as the financial aid office begins to roll out FA packages, we will be working in tandem to aid students in securing their deposits. We have adjusted our priority deposit deadline from May 1st to June 7th to allow prospective Ship students to decide on their college.

The admissions team is winding down on spring travel season and an eventful season of group visits to campus. As we continue to finalize the 2024 recruitment of students, we continue to have large group and bus visits to campus.

As of today, we are keeping options open if we open up another late Admitted Student Day, but our last ASD was April 13th, and we saw an 80% show rate and 40 deposits result from our efforts that day.

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Our new student orientation registration is now in full swing. Of the 1105 eligible deposited students for transfer and freshman, we have already registered 589 for the 8 different orientation days we have planned. This proactive approach to welcoming our new students is a testament to our commitment to their successful transition into our college community.

Marketing continues to perform above our benchmarks. We recently launched our Graduate student marketing campaign and wrapped up our Health Science Campaign, in which we are currently at 68 applications, 40 admits, and seven deposits into our new Bachelor of Health Science program. We are also gearing up to begin our Melt campaign to create excitement and confirm to students that Ship is it. Last year, this campaign aided in reducing our melt percentage, going from 17% in 2022 to 14% in 2023.

As I mentioned, we have finally begun to receive ISIRs on FAFSA data for 2024-2025; we are still seeing a decline in FAFSA fillers and encouraging students through marketing campaigns, communication campaigns, and outreach to encourage new and current students to complete the FAFSA.

From the Division of Student Affairs

Lorie Sheetz updated the trustees on the work within the Division of Student Affairs. Fraternity and Sorority Life was highlighted for the excellent work for Spring 2024.

- Greek Week fundraised \$3,400 for the development of a Greek scholarship.
- Fraternities and sororities participating in Relay for Life raised over \$6,000 for Colleges Against Cancer.
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life co-hosted a Greek Career Networking Night with the Career Center and Alpha Kappa Psi that had 10+ employers from the career fair in attendance.
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc. hosted a For the Culture: Basic Needs Drive that collected cultural care products that support the basic needs of students of color.
- Pi Lambda Phi celebrated their chapter's 40th anniversary and Phi Delta Theta celebrated their 25th in March 2023 with events that brought hundreds of alumni back.

Lorie also mentioned the student activities fee was increasing for 24-25 by \$1.00 per credit to \$24 per credit hour with no cap. This will allow students groups to have access to additional \$120,000 in programming money and up to \$80,000 in capital projects.

It was also mentioned that SGA celebrated the following individuals at the student life awards on April 18th-

- Ms. Kim Rockwell, Interim Director of SUSSI- Outstanding Administrator of the Year
- Ms. Asha Early, General Manager dining- Outstanding Staff member of the Year
- Dr. Sharnine Herbert, Associate Professor, Communications – Outstanding Faculty of the Year

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Reports

APSCUF Report

Immediate Past President, Dr. Kara Laskowsky highlighted that both faculty and coaches contracts were settled and recognized Dr. Patterson's role serving on the management committee.

Moving forward the outgoing president, Aaron Dobbs will be immediate past president, Dr. Kim Presser will be president and Dr. Shari Horner will be president elect. Dr. Liz Fisher will serve as vice chair of the faculty council for statewide, Rob Fulton will serve on statewide as the coach, and Dr. Kara Laskowsky will be the VP for statewide APSCUF.

Great work to faculty for Minds@work and all their accomplishments during the academic year 23-24. Thanks to Interim Provost Nicole Hill for her work the past two years and APSCUF are satisfied with the hiring of Dr. Darrel Newton as the incoming provost.

APSCUF has grave concerns regarding the direction of the university. There have been very few tenure track hires over the past several years and very few are planned. There have been 54 faculty retirements and resignations over the past few years and we are being asked for more. Direct instructional costs are only 1/3 of the E and G expenses. This is not sustainable in human resources or financially.

As you are aware we have no theatre arts program any longer and some programs will face loss of their accreditation as we continue to cut faculty positions. We do not have enough faculty to support the array of programs that have made Ship successful. I recently worked with a student who came to see me as their majors are being eliminated and they have had a hard time registering for fall classes.

In the APSCUF report it was indicated that there are serious concerns about the direction of the university using the arbitrary and politically motivated metrics we have to use. Being asked to eliminate 30 faculty positions in the next three years is already exhausting our faculty and shortchanging our students. APSCUF asks for the COT partnership for support.

AFSCME Report

Niky Keeseman attended and did not have a report.

SCUPA Report

Representative Mr. Kyle Miller shared the following: Across the University many programs that impact the daily lives of people in the Ship community are powered by SCUPA members. Today I would like to feature the work of two of those members – Shelbie D'Annibale, Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources, and Assistant Director Alex Coombs.

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Through their work, Shelbie and Alex provide a wide array of services to roughly 10% of Ship students each year. This ranges from guidance & support to living & learning accommodations, with the most utilized services including the designated testing space in Mowrey Hall and extended time on exams.

When asked what the impact of their work means to them, Shelbie shared that it is about providing equal access to a quality education for Ship students regardless of ability and creating a sense of belonging for members of our campus community. I am pleased to share that the data supports their success in doing so, with high rates of satisfaction for students utilizing the services provided by the Office of Accessibility Resources.

I also would like to provide a thank you to two of our members – Brandy Brady, Assistant Director of Admissions & Lori Smith, Director of Alumni Relations – for their service on our successful search committees to name a new Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs and a Vice President for Enrollment Management & Marketing.

Congratulations Dr. Luft on your appointment and I look forward to welcoming Dr. Newtown to campus this summer.

The close of another academic year brings with it the joy of celebrating our graduates as well as the sadness of saying goodbye to students we've worked with for the last several years. I close my remarks with an adage the seams particularly relevant for those of us in education:

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 – we know they will go do great things.

Alumni Association Report

Steve Thomas, President of the alumni association highlighted information including the April events in Conshohocken and Mechanicsburg as well as the 2nd annual football alumni reunion. The alumni association also hosted an event in Denver CO with over 27 attending. We are encouraging alumni all over the US to host events on behalf of Shippensburg University where they live.

May 8th is the SR Send off Champaigne toast and several alumni board members will be present. We will have reserved seats for 22 legacies for commencement.

Finally, Alumni weekend is May 31-June 1. We encourage you to attend all events and our Tunnels and tour of OM sold out quickly.

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As of July 1- Moriah Hathaway will be the alumni association president and Aven Bittinger will be the president elect.

Student Government Association Report-

Harun Pacavar, SGA president reported that SGA successfully amended the constitution to better meet the needs of students of the present day. Additionally, he highlighted that SUPD is implementing temporary speedbumps this summer. Congratulations to those graduating and thanks to all senators for their service.

Graduate Student Association Board Report- highlighted that they have expanded their reach this past year to all graduate students, not just those that live in Mowery. They had a trivia night, will be hosting a welcome week in August again and will be having a goodbye for graduating seniors this weekend.

New Business

Citation for Rangeline DeJesus who is graduating- thank you for your hard work for Shippensburg university!

Citation for Andrew (Drew) Alosi who is resigned from the trustees in March 2024- thank you for your hard work for Shippensburg university!

Citation for Antoinette Marchowsky who resigned effective May 4, 2024- will be presented to Toni as soon as possible.

Next meeting: September 20, 2024 at Iron Valley Golf Club, Lebanon PA

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Submitted by: Lorie Sheetz

Reviewed:

Doug Harbach, Chair, Council of Trustees

Bill Gindlesperger, Secretary, Council of Trustee

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