

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MAY 14, 2020  
4:52 PM**

**AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Matlawski called the meeting to order. Chair Matlawski announced a temporary suspension of the Pledge of Allegiance until in-person meetings resume once the COVID-19 Pandemic resolves.

Council members present were Members: Dozor, Fillippo, Franklin, Ireland, Kaliszak, Kinsey, Lewis, Matlawski, Moskowitz, Schick, Tomlinson.

Absent but accounted for were Members: N/A

**AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AS DISTRIBUTED TO THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**

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**MOTION (DOZOR/MOSKOWITZ)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2020 MEETING AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

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**AGENDA ITEM III – PUBLIC COMMENT: LIMIT OF TEN (10) MINUTES:**

Mark Rimple (APSCUF President), “Thank you very much. It's good to see everybody. I've prepared some formal remarks and sent them along to Rachel

for a copy. So, I'm Mark Rimple, I am the APSCUF President on campus, the chapter president. As the chapter, president of APSCUF I bring cordial greetings to the Council of Trustees and thank you for the opportunity to share my remarks with you in these unprecedented times. I will consider the recent past, the present, and our uncertain plans for the near future.

Our campus has profited from a productive relationship between labor and management, especially in regard to the academic side of the house. I am fortunate to work with the senior management team that includes former faculty and APSCUF members who understand the dynamics of the classroom and the special nature of academic labor. When the pandemic began to turn sour President Fiorentino and his team quickly maneuvered the institution to protect the students, staff, faculty, and coaches. What's more, by making the decision early and understanding that teaching online takes about triple the amount of preparation and involvement of traditional teaching, faculty were fortunate to have over two weeks to prepare to bring their courses online. This was not the case at Temple where faculty found at the end of the week that they're going online the next Monday with little to no support. The Provost Office led by Lori Bernotsky and Jeff Osgood, IS&T led by JT Singh, and our DE [distance education] office led by Rui Li were incredibly helpful to individual faculty as well as we have online. Faculty also took to social media, like Facebook, where Communications Professor Ola Kopacz organized and maintained an incredibly helpful closed discussion forum, where faculty effectively share their ideas and help one another. I will say that by and large our faculty took the challenge and ran with it and that the students were given high quality instruction. This is not say that such instruction modalities are ideal for all endeavors. As a music professor, I won't bore you with the technical details that make much of our ensemble work impossible to do in real time. And, I will also say that students seem to indicate that they're not thrilled with the online environment and like faculty, are under enormous stress in the Zoom environment. This is not a viable permanent situation. Remember, the

vast majority of our students have not selected online learning and that those who championed such teaching and learning have self-selected into this environment. As President Fiorentino has said to me repeatedly, our undergraduate students come here for the in-person campus experience and we hope that we will be able to return to it when it is safe to do so. Currently, summer learning continues online. The Chancellor decided this continuation without the input of the Union, unlike the careful negotiation with APSCUF over terms for spring semester. I am part of both a pair of shared governance groups, one for the delivery of technology during the pandemic, the other for fall planning. I am actively involved over the summer with meet and discuss and meetings with the President and Provost. APSCUF has been part of the conversation from beginning of the crisis and continues to be and I truly appreciate the honest dialogue with the President and Provost Office. I'd be remiss if I failed to thank Dr. Jeff Osgood for our constant teamwork. I will be teaching a course online voluntarily this summer to help our graduate students myself in music history, as well. I'm learning many things and will retain some techniques from this odd season. But the future is not clear. I know how agonizing and frustrating these decisions are for many conversations with management. I also see no actual leadership in the nation's capital, no coordinated assistance to states, and utter confusion speed by the unreasonable facsimile of a president who derided science and learning. I can imagine that without solid CDC guidance, the states are struggling and I know that the Wolf administration is far from able to be clear. Some of the inability to decide clearly comes from our evolving knowledge of how the population is affected by the illness. Just two months ago, we weren't aware of the effects on children or strokes in younger adults due to clotting vessels. Anyone who thinks this is just another flu is completely ignorant of the clearly frightening news from the frontline of the crisis and the labs and epidemiologist charting the pandemic. Consider the concentration of people in the workplace in relation to our campus. The hotspots we're learning about nationwide are facilities like nursing homes, prisons, and meatpacking plants. I don't want us to be

compared to the latter, not that anyone intends such a thing. But think of the classroom as a place where social distancing has a threshold, how many students can work in a classroom in the day before safety has been compromised, despite the number in a room at the time? And kids will be kids, how do you keep young vital people apart without chaperones? How do we get from place to place and hallways, elevator, stairwells, etc.? At the moment, I'm not sure how we get there, but I do know that our management team is exploring all these issues very carefully. It is clear that we are worried about fiscal issues. We just don't know until we start the term whether the projections for student competent will bear out. But at the end of the day it was imperative that we be better than the president of Tyson Foods, or private prisons, or private nursing homes, who put money before safety. I know that will not be the case, however, in my position as APSCUF president, I will need to advocate for workplace safety, whether we are told to come back to the campus in person or not. I trust that the Council of Trustees and management understand my persistence in this role is vital for the bargaining unit. Many faculty are parents caring for their elders or immune compromised, they will expect my leadership which may put me in conflict with the campus if things deteriorate. However, I promise I will work with campus leadership nevertheless, because dialogue is very important. And those are my comments, thank you.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV – REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Matlawski, “Report of the Council Chairperson. Just very briefly, the Office of the Chancellor, has asked that all PASSHE institution Council of Trustees introduce a resolution before September of the coming year, as required by the Board of Governors policy which shows the chain of executive responsibility in the event of an emergency in the absence of the President. To comply with the request, the chairperson asked for a motion for resolution regarding the Succession Plan which reads as follows:”

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**MOTION (DOZOR/IRELAND):**

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY HEREBY APPROVES THE ORDER SUCCESSION PLAN ATTACHED TO THIS RESOLUTION AND IS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS POLICY 1983-14A APPOINTING INTERIM AND ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Chairperson Matlawski continues, “The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way we do business and I'd like to just say that I've been impressed by the agility and actions of the faculty, staff and administrators at West Chester. It's really remarkable what everyone has come together and been able to accomplish during these very trying times and I think we all feel that way and I'd like to present the following resolution for the Council's consideration. This is an employee recognition resolution, which would say:

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**MOTION (LEWIS/DOZOR):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY HEREBY RECOGNIZES AND COMMENDS THE COORDINATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THEY DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO QUICKLY RESPOND AND COLLECTIVELY NAVIGATE OPERATIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY.**

## **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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### **AGENDA ITEM V – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Chairperson Matlawski, “Next, we move on to the report of the University President, and I call on President Fiorentino for his report. Welcome, Chris.”

President Fiorentino, “Thank you, Adam and hello, everybody. Well, we've just wrapped up what several people have already commented on. But, I would say that it's safe to say that this is the most unusual semester they have ever experienced. It really required an incredible effort, there's already been quite a bit said about that but again, the actions of the faculty, the IT area, most of our employees in all offices working from home, allowing us to completely pivot in a two-week period as was indicated by Mark Rimple to completely change how we operate. And it was pretty amazing thing and I'm very proud of what happened on this campus. And in fact, Jeff Osgood made some comments about the great processing that's underway and we did a quick analysis of the grades because obviously one of our big concerns was, whether this is going to be negatively impacting the students. And in terms of the analysis of the grades, there is no evidence to suggest that the mid-semester shift to remote learning resulted in a decline in student learning. So, that really is about the best news that that we could have. And interestingly, one of the things that happened was, we had a smaller number of students withdrawing from classes and I think that part of that was that we created the opportunity for them if they were struggling a little bit to hang in there and be able to get credit for a course without it negatively impacting their grade point average. So what that means ultimately, is that the students ended up earning a lot of credits that in normal semesters that they may have just dropped because they were too

worried about what their grade was going to be. So that's good news. But, again, reflecting on the work of the faculty, I've heard an incredible number of anecdotes about faculty going above and beyond the call of duty to work with students. Our students have been struggling with their children being home and having sickness within their families, just an incredible struggle for everybody involved and the faculty were compassionate, supportive, understanding and the results of have just been an incredible outcome. And as Jeff Osgood alluded to earlier, we feel that while this has been a struggle and continues to be, the way that this campus has rallied, we come out of this semester stronger than we went in and it really has been quite amazing. I will say that we're not out of the woods. There's a lot of uncertainty in front of us to the as far as the summer goes, we're continuing on in the same mode that we have been in the in the spring. Of course, we just completed a very quiet commencement weekend. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold our commencement, commencements. As you know, we've moved to a college level commencement celebration. And so, we have quite a few ceremonies over the course of commencement weekend. We took the pulse of the students and the consensus seem to be that the students wanted to have a commencement in person when we're able to do so and so we have made the commitment to do that. We don't know when that will be, but as soon as we are able, we will start to work on that we've told the students that we will give them 45 days' notice so hopefully they can make arrangements with their families to be able to participate in the celebration. In lieu of commencement, we did have a number of programs that had virtual small events for their graduates. We did put out a congratulatory video that I participated in with the deans and it's been a very sad celebration. Unfortunately, obviously the graduating seniors did not have the last half of their last semester turn out the way that they expected, which is very disappointing. I've spoken to a number of them and they reflected on the disappointment, but they certainly understood and appreciated that we made a decision to keep them safe. I will say that as Sue as I continue to walk the campus, and over the past week or so, we've had a significant number of

students coming back to the campus with their families to take pictures at the arches, or the RAM, or any number of places on campus. So those traditions have continued and hopefully we'll be able to gather at some point in the not too distant future and have the students walk across the stage and have their names read and their families cheer. So, we'll all look forward to that.

Moving on to the planning involving what we're going to do in the fall. Again, a couple of comments have already been made. There's a great deal of uncertainty. I'm sure you're all aware of the planning that's going on in the Governor's Office and the designation of red, yellow, and green counties. At this time, we continue to be a red county. We've been informed, the Governor has stated that in order for institutions of higher education to return to full face to face operations we have to be green. It's not exactly clear to us at this point what it is going to take to be green. They have not clearly stated what the parameters are so at this point the leadership team is planning for every eventuality. We're hoping to be able to go back face to face. Obviously, we have to get permission to do that. And then we have to determine whether we can do it safely. We're looking at possibly setting up this the fall semester, broken down into units, like three week units, and maybe even if we have to start remotely will be able to transition at some point, bring everybody back to campus. That will depend upon how things progress, but we will be ready for all those eventualities. We need to make a decision in time, as Mark Rimple suggested, it takes time for faculty to prepare. So, we can't just wait to the last minute and make a decision, we have to give them sufficient lead time to prepare. So we're hoping that by sometime in July, we will have enough information to make a good judgment on what we should do and we will continue to work towards that. There is a whole separate set of issues around returning students to our residence halls. Obviously, the concentration of people in the residence halls is much more significant than even in the classrooms. We would be able to implement social distancing in the classrooms more easily than in the residence halls, so we continue to be

working on that. Dr. Davenport is working with his team on what the possibilities are. Obviously there are there are fiscal considerations to this but, of course our primary focuses on safety and we're going to act upon the expert guidance that we get and make the best judgments that we can and we will certainly keep you informed us as time goes along. I can assure you, this is very frustrating. We had a session today where we're talking about the latest information that we have for monitoring what other schools are doing. Within the last couple of days, the Cal State System announced that it was it was not going to go back to face to face education and the North Carolina system said that it is going back. So, there's no real consistency around what's happening. We've had schools like Purdue indicating their intention is to go back. We have not heard anything from major institutions in Pennsylvania. So, we will continue to monitor to plan and such time that we're prepared to make a decision, we will make the best decision that we can and will keep you apprised of that along the way. So, it's going to be an interesting summer and hopefully, things are going to work out well.

A few other things I want to report. First of all, I'm pleased to report that two more of our Trustees have been approved by the Senate and by the Governor. So, Chris Franklin and Jon Ireland have had their terms renewed. So, at this point by my count, we now have seven members who are currently approved for the terms that they're in Kinsey, Franklin, Lewis, Ireland, Dozor, Schick, and Kaliszak and then our four remaining trustees continue to serve. And we're hoping to get approvals at some point for Moskowitz, Tomlinson, Filippo, and Matlawski. So, that's the state of affairs and as you all know, Trustees continue to serve beyond the end of their term if they have not been renewed or someone else approved to be in that position and we appreciate your ongoing willingness to serve on behalf of the institution.

Member Franklin, "Chris, if Tommy needs any help getting approved. I'm happy to help."

President Fiorentino, "Say that again?"

Member Franklin repeats, "If Tommy Tomlinson needs any help getting approved by the Senate, I'll help him."

President Fiorentino continues, "Thank you, Chris. Duly noted. We'll do work on that. Okay. Another thing I want to mention, you're probably aware that earlier this year, we had a retirement incentive that had been approved for faculty in the system. One of the things that that the Chancellor is trying to accomplish overall, on behalf of all the universities is to adjust to the rather significant enrollment declines that have occurred at most of the universities. That is not the case for West Chester, but at most of the schools the enrollments have dropped and adjusting to the lower enrollment requires adjustment in personnel compliments and obviously, one way to accomplish that is for people to choose to retire. And so that was offered. We did overall at the 14 institutions have around 220 faculty accept the offer and took the retirement incentive to retire. That incentive, it's now been extended, which I think is quite appropriate to members of the other bargaining units and members of the non-representative managers group who are in the 190 classification or below which means that the senior executives are not in that group, but all the other managers. And again, this is providing financial opportunity or financial incentive for them to retire. This has also been extended for the faculty. We learned that there were probably some faculty who once the deadline past had some remorse and thought that maybe they

should have taken the opportunity and so we collectively, we the presidents and the Chancellor, decided to extend it if there were people who would choose to do that. So, from the time right now through sometime in June employees will have the opportunity to opt for that; they would have to retire by sometime in September. Again, this is not something that we need as an institution, but as we go into the fall semester with a high degree of uncertainty, as has been alluded to by several of the speakers so far we don't know quite what to expect from enrollment. If we find ourselves having to go back using remote delivery, there will likely be students who would opt not to come back to school. Even if we are able to return face to face, there are likely to be students and parents who might feel that it's unsafe for their children to come back and be on a college campus. So, we have to be prepared for the possibility that our enrollments will be lower than projected. Interestingly right now, as has been reported, we have waiting lists for housing. The returning student targets that we have established, we're hitting so, people are certainly interested in coming back. But again, there's a lot of uncertainty between now and then around what the circumstances are going to be. So, we're trying to prepare for that. And to the extent that we have employees who take advantage of the sick leave incentive, retirement incentive, it's actually a sick leave bonus that they receive, that would add to our flexibility going forward. So, we'll see how that goes. We know that we're going to lose some outstanding people, we already have, we've lost some people, Paulina Castro, the Chair, longtime Chair of the physics department, one in particular who I'm very sorry to see going. But, there are many employees who are at a time in their careers where they're eligible for this and may very well take advantage of it. So, we'll see how that how that goes on.

Just a couple other quick things. I want to give a shout out to Laurie Bernotsky. The COVID-19 circumstances have really heighten the struggle of many of our sister institutions that were already in difficult circumstances and now they're facing even more alarming circumstances. They're facing of course

what I just suggested for West Chester, the possibility of enrollment declines. Tuition has again been frozen which we all believe is quite appropriate but that becomes a difficult fiscal challenge. I've heard from Senator Tomlinson that that there's the budget, the state budget, has taken a hit, both in terms of lost revenue and in expenditures to the tune of about \$5 billion. So, it's highly possible that that our state appropriation is going to be impacted by that. So, they're difficult circumstances, both for us and for our sister institutions and the Presidents of the 14 institutions have been working extensively with the Chancellor. We're at the point now where we're having multiple two-hour meetings a week, plus additional phone calls, and small group discussions. And several weeks ago I offered to the Chancellor to have West Chester present how we operate, how we have managed to operate so efficiently over many years. Laurie and I collaborated to put together a little model that predicts the appropriate numbers of major programs at institutions of different enrollment sizes. So, we have done that over the past several weeks and when I say we, I sit there and Laurie does all the talking, which is how I prefer it. And she's done a fabulous job of presenting to the other campuses of how we operate and we're seeing a lot of interest. Matter of fact, the presentation was done for the President's this week and next week we're redoing the same presentation or some version of it, I haven't heard the from Laurie quite what the modification is going to be, but next weeks presentation is going to be given to leadership teams, Vice Presidents of Finance, Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, Deans in an attempt to try to help the other schools to operate their academic programs more efficiently than they have been in the recent past. So again, Laurie, thank you for doing that on behalf of the system. And I will say that because of Laurie's extensive commitment of time and support of the system, Jeff Osgood continues to be doing just outstanding work in his position and taking on extensive responsibility. I find myself as we're sitting in town hall meetings or other gatherings, when I get a question my first inclination is to look to Jeff because Jeff is is focused on the academics, he's focused on the Labor Relations, he's focused on the technology. So Jeff, thank you for

everything that you're doing. And again, for the entire team, the IT people, the student affairs people around the housing. This has really just been one incredible couple of months. And, and I think we can all be very proud of the employees of this institution. So, thank you to all of you and that concludes my report. And I now ask for the Approval of Purchase Orders and Contracts for December 2019, January, February, March 2020. Thank you, Adam.”

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/DOZOR):**

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS AND CONTRACTS  
FOR DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH 2019.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**AGENDA ITEM VI – REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:**

None

**AGENDA ITEM VII – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

None

**AGENDA ITEM VIII – REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Chairperson Matlawski asked for report from the standing committees.

Member Franklin reported for the Finance and Administration Committee:

“Hey, Adam. Thanks. The Committee met and I have to say, over the last year or so Chris, Laurie, Todd, Ilene, the whole team, we get together to go through the finances with typically Chris Lewis and I. We've taken it to another level. I should really give the credit to Todd and his team for taking it to the next level. So, we get into a lot of detail in the financial report and then a lot of that is presented here in a condensed fashion to the Trustees. But we met, this was earlier this week and very thoroughly reviewed the University’s financial

position and I'm very comfortable where we are. And Rachel, if you want to put the resolutions up we can walk through them.

Okay, here's the first one and the total is 8.4 million there as you can see, and as discussed in Todd's report."

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/SCHICK):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION & GENERAL (E&G) BUDGET FOR FY2021.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Franklin continues, "Okay, These new dining fees, these rates have been determined in accordance with the State System of Higher Education Policy requiring self-sufficiency of auxiliary enterprises."

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/MOSKOWITZ)**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE FOLLOWING FEES BE ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE THE FALL SEMESTER 2020.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Franklin goes on, “All right, hee’s the five-year Capital Budget Request/ You’ve all had a chance to look at that. The items on that five-year budget. Are there any questions that anybody has on the five-year budget?”

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/FILLIPPO)**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST PREPARED BY THE UNIVERSITY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Franklin continues, “All right, this is the standard Fiduciary Agreement”

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/FILLIPPO)**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE FIDUCIARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION. UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION WILL MANAGE ALL UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENTS AND SIMILAR ASSETS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PHILIPS FUND ENDOWMENT, WHICH IS MANAGED BY BB&T BANK AS TRUSTEE OF THE FUND).**

**THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION SHALL HOLD AND MANAGE THE AFOREMENTIONED ASSETS FOR THE UNIVERSITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INVESTMENT POLICIES OF THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE SYSTEM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE TERMS OF THE FIDUCIARY AGREEMENT.**

**THE AGREEMENT IS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, UNLESS EITHER PARTY DESIRES TO REVOKE OR AMEND THE AGREEMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN THE FIDUCIARY AGREEMENT.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Franklin, “Okay, now we’ll move to the Total Return Endowment Spending Rate. This was discussed and decided that, despite fluctuations in the market this was a prudent measure for us to continue with.”

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/SCHICK)**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THAT THE CURRENT 3.5% TOTAL RETURN ENDOWMENT SPENDING RATE OF THE MARKET VALUE OF THE ENDOWMENT BE CONTINUED FOR THE 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Chairperson Matlawski, “Okay, thank you very much, Chris. That concludes your report. We’ll move on to the Academic and Student Affairs committee and resolutions, Judge Dozor or Senator Tomlinson?”

Member Dozor, “I think the Senator and I both would like to entertain various motions and resolutions that have been presented to us and we can put them up on the screen, one by one and Tommy and I can take turns or...”

Dr. Osgood, “Judge Dozor, I just wanted to let you know that given the similarities across all of the resolutions giving recognition and awards to the faculty, you would be within order to bundle them together.”

Member Dozor, “Okay well, with regarding the resolution to confer designation of Emeritus upon the following Distinguish Retired Faculty all of them submitted, we would like to entertain that motion.”

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**MOTION (DOZOR/FILLIPPO)**

**APPROVAL OF THE DESIGNATION OF EMERITUS UPON THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED RETIRED FACULTY: EVE ATKINSON, DENA BEEGHLY, JOHN BENESKI, STANLEY CRAMER, MONICA LEPORE, PAUL MALTBY, EDWARD MATEJKOVIC, GARRY MOLHOLT, JULIE PERONE, CATHY PRUDHOE, CAROL SMOTH, LEEANN SROGI, AND JACK WABER.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (DOZOR/FILLIPPO)**

**APPROVAL OF THE LINDBACK DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD  
RECIPIENT: PAULINE SCHMIDT.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (DOZOR/FILLIPPO)**

**APPROVAL OF THE THE DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD  
RECIPIENT: FRANK FISH.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (DOZOR/FILLIPPO)**

**APPROVAL OF THE E. RILEY HOLMAN MEMORIAL FACULTY AWARD  
RECIPIENT: MEGAN HECKERT.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (DOZOR/FILLIPPO)**

**APPROVAL OF THE TRUSTEES' ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT:  
OVIDIU MARINESCU.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Dozor continues, "The following resolution is to ask for approval of various academic program actions. This is similar to what we do from time to time and as submitted there are numerous recommendations to have some modest title changes, in fact to 10 of them, title changes as submitted. And then we have 14 additional new minors and certificates, which is certainly good news. And then we have three new constant concentrations. And then we have four new program reorganizations and reactivation degree changes which only magnifies the offerings that West Chester University and the diversity we have in academic programming."

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**MOTION (DOZOR/FRANKLIN)**

**APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 ACADEMIC PROGRAM CHANGES.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Dozor, "And that's my report."

Chairperson Matlawski, “Okay, thank you Judge Dozor and Senator Tomlinson. University Affairs, there are no resolutions, but did either Trustee Ireland or Representative Kinsey have anything they wanted to submit?”

Member Ireland, “There is nothing more to report at this time.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “Okay, thank you.”

Member Dozor, “Adam, I think there may be a report for Student Affairs. Erin may have a report.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “My fault, I apologize. Let's go back to Erin, I sincerely apologize. Do you have a report for us?”

Member Kaliszak, “Yes, I do have a report. Well, good evening, everyone. As we've all said, although this semester with very different than any student would have expected, students are definitely staying resilient and many virtual student initiatives have happened since West Chester University has moved to remote delivery.

First, I would like to highlight the Student Activities Council and their successful virtual Banana Day event that took place on Wednesday, April 15. Student leaders in this organization use social media platforms to create games, trivia, bake offs, and so much more for students to enjoy and celebrate our University's Annual Banana Day.

Next, the Student Government Association held a virtual town hall on Tuesday, April 21 from 7pm to 8:30pm through a Zoom webinar format. This event gave students and WCU administration the opportunity to connect virtually during these unprecedented times. Panelists at the event included President Fiorentino, Dr. Bernotsky, Dr. Osgood, and Dr. Davenport. At this event students had the opportunity to pre-submit questions via Ram Connect and ask questions live to be answered by the panelists. Some of the topics that were discussed included the university's plan for the fall semester, the alternative grading policy, student refunds, virtual resources, both on-campus and off-campus housing, and so much more. This event was also recorded and dispersed to students for reference. So, thank you to all our panelists who made this event so successful. I know many students appreciated it.

Next, I would like to highlight a student initiative that was created for off campus WCU student renters, as Dr. Davenport talked about before. This student initiative is called Advocates for WCU Renters and it was created by three WCU students, Allie Drains, Riley McGowan, and Katie Fox. These students serve as a leadership team for the initiative and this is a quick quote from the students highlighting what the group does. They state, “we are a group of students and parents working to create a lease contingency plan for the 2020-2021 school year. We are advocating for fair lease agreements for the students in the West Chester Borough in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Our goal is to make sure students are confident in their decision to rent in the Borough.” And since this group has started via Facebook, they've accumulated over 300 members and accomplished many things. First they created and signed a letter to property owners in hopes of partnering with landlords and coming to an agreement in regard to handling the off-campus leases during this time. This letter has been signed by members of the West Chester Borough and the WCU community, including mayor of West Chester Borough Diane Heron and President of West Chester University Dr. Fiorentino. This group has held various Zoom meetings and communicated through Facebook

and text reminders. They've been featured in an article by the Philadelphia Inquirer as well. Many students are facing the same issue and I know this group allows them to communicate about their experiences and have conversations with landlords, university administrators, and borough officials to hopefully solve this problem.

And then to finish off the semester, the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement debuted the 2020 Leadership Awards via YouTube on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. At this event, student leaders, organizations, and advisors were recognized and some were awarded specific awards.

In addition to the many student initiatives, there are also some university wide initiatives I would like to highlight. First up is the WeCU campaign, this campaign is a website created by the Communications and Marketing Department for Student Affairs to catalog all the initiatives and resources made available by the WC Division of Student Affairs since the start of remote delivery. This website is updated regularly and they use the same logo to ensure consistent branding so that all students are aware of this.

Next, the Office of Residence Life and housing services has begun a free virtual guest speaker series. Zoom has connected over 250 students with more than 20 celebrities and notable figures. Key speakers have included Craig Robinson, actor from The Office; Kate Flannery, actor from The Office; Ron Jaworski, former eagle and NFL analyst for ESPN; Brian Propp, former Philadelphia Flyer; Merrill Reese, Philadelphian Sports Radio Announcer; Brian Dawkins, former Eagle and Hall of Famer; and Audra McLaughlin, a finalist on Season six of The Voice. This series has been running from April 8<sup>th</sup> through May 13<sup>th</sup>. The last university wide initiative is one I believe that is extremely important and Dr. Fiorentino has talked about this a little bit, but it is the 20 ways to celebrate WCU graduates. The Graduation Celebration Task Force within the division has created 20 different ways to celebrate the 2020 graduates. And

some of them include the Division of Student Affairs Congratulations video which has been shared on social media and by alumni affairs, they're sending a note to graduating students. So, alumni from West Chester University are sending and posting to the alumni Facebook page, notes to the graduating seniors. And then finally, there was a Zoom background that was created for seniors to use in their final week of classes and I know I saw it and it was good, very, very fun. So regardless of all the circumstances, the University and students have really come together to end the semester strong and I'm really, really proud to report on all these amazing initiatives.

Finally, I just wanted to quickly thank all the Trustees for welcoming me in my first-year Student Trustee. I really, really enjoyed working in this position, and I'm super excited to continue working with you on next year. End of report.

Chairperson Matlawski, "Thank you, Erin, thank you."

President Fiorentino jokes, "Erin, it was just a typical year, okay?"

Member Kalisak replies, "A very different year for sure."

#### **AGENDA ITEM IX – REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE:**

Chairperson Matlawski continues, "Okay, I now call on Judge Dozor who is Chair of the Nominating Committee to give the Nominating Committee recommendations for officers for next year."

Member Dozor, “Thank you. In years past, Marian Moskowitz along with Eli Silberman and I, of course, Eli is a former Trustee, we've shared this committee and of course Marian and I were asked to share it again. Before speaking about it, I do want to indicate, it's fair to say that in recent years we've been so well served by our Chairman. In years past, of course, years of Tom Fillippo who was just fantastic and fabulous followed by Adam Matlawski. Adam has served for two years or so and he's done an excellent, excellent job and it's been a pleasure serving with Tom and Adam, and I'm sure everybody feels the same. So, we want to put something in the minutes to acknowledge years of service from Tom Fillippo and also, most recently Adam Matlawski serving so wonderfully well. So, thank you very much, Adam. Our Council of Trustees are blessed with a well of talents, with no exception. Every one of the Trustees could serve as an officer, but also on any committee and any special assignments. We're really blessed with a lot of talent and great individuals. So, with no exception, everybody one by one, hopefully will have opportunities to serve in a variety of different ways, special assignments or committees, and officers. It's also interesting, I mean all of our Trustees are in part of the public landscape and have a profile and provide community service, but of course the highest public profile we have is with Senator Tomlinson and State Representative Stephen Kinsey, and County Commissioner Marian Moskowitz. So, you know, with them alone we're served so well, we're so fortunate to have them. John Villella had called around and a few people had shown some interest and anybody asked has been pleased to serve. I had told Marian that I had an interest in serving as an officer and she was kind enough to consent to allow me to be considered as vice chair, but all of us agreed that we'd like to recommend Robert “Tommy” M. Tomlinson as chair for a term of two years, myself as vice chair and as Secretary, Marian Moskowitz. So Marian, would you like to add anything?”

Member Moskowitz replies, “No, I think you said it all. I'm very grateful to everybody who steps up in the leadership, it's an interesting time to be in leadership roles and boards and various things so, I'm grateful to everybody who's on this board and certainly to the leadership.”

Member Dozor continues, “You know, we have just a marvelous board. I've seen a lot of boards and they've all been good, but this is an exemplary board and we're complimented very often by great student representatives as Erin compliments us too. So, I'd like to make that motion to appoint for a term of three years those officers.”

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**MOTION (DOZOR/IRELAND)**

**APPROVAL OF TWO YEAR TERM FOR OFFICERS: CHAIRPERSON- ROBERT “TOMMY” M. TOMLINSON; VICE CHAIR- JUDGE BARRY DOZOR; SECRETARY- MARIAN MOSKOWITZ.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Moskowitz, “Congratulations Tom.”

Member Dozor, “Yeah, congratulations Tommy.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “And to Barry and Marian. Thank you for agreeing to take those positions.”

Member Tomlinson responds, "I'm honored by your nomination and these are very interesting times and I look forward to working with the very excellent Board of Trustees and excellent administration. We have a lot of hard work to do. Thank you."

Chairperson Matlawski, "Thank you, Tom. Okay. I don't believe that we have any reports of liaison persons to constituencies. Does anyone have any old business or new business they'd like to bring before the Council?"

**AGENDA ITEM X – REPORT OF LIASON PERSON TO CONSTITUENCIES:**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM XI – OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**AGENDA ITEM XII – NEW BUSINESS:**

Member Tomlinson, "Adam, if I could just make a comment a little bit on things. I know Chris Franklin was making a joke when he said that he'd helped get me nominated, but after last week, things are very difficult. As it relates to our opening next year, I think some good things have happened in that I think that our counties are going to be counted on individually and not as a region. And I think the numbers are going to be more considered as where the COVID-19 deaths occurred in nursing homes or in the community. I see the Secretary of Health and the Governor working very, very hard to do this safely and get us open as soon as we can. This is a very vast state, it's a very different state, every region has little different, but I think if our county is counted, Chester County is counted as separate from the Southeast region, that will bode well. That being said, the thing that is becoming very apparent to everyone is that most of these deaths are occurring in nursing homes and as I think we're going to witness the decline over the summer of the incidences

and the deaths from COVID. I'm very worried about the fall and I'm very worried about a rebound. So, I think the thing that we have to be very conscious of is whether we open on campus or not. And thank you so much, President Fiorentino for the hard work you're doing to think of new and innovative ways. I think that we have a very, very serious situation because we bring so many people onto a campus and it's certainly large groups of people, even though young people seem to do well with this in most cases, but elderly people don't and some of our faculty might be exposed. And so, I think we have some very, very serious discussions. I think the Governor and the Secretary of Health are very serious about this and whether we do it safely, I realized there are campuses in rural Pennsylvania that will be clamoring. I noticed many of my legislative leaders thinking it's extremely important to get these schools open, but we have to be very, very careful. So, President Fiorentino, thank you for your good report on that. But it's going to be a very interesting summer for us so, I just wanted to bring the rest of the board up to date a little bit on the back and forth because there are certainly people in Harrisburg who believe counties should be open and there's certainly people in the administration that think counties shouldn't be open, so as dealing with an entire state system, it's going to be a very difficult deliberation and a very difficult position. So, thank you all so much, and I appreciate your nomination look forward to working very hard for my alma mater. Thank you.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “Thank you Tom. Before we adjourn does anyone else have anything for the good of the order?”

Member Franklin, “Yeah Adam, I’ll just add really on the same topic as Tommy's topic there and Chris, you did a nice job with the with the report.

One of the things that I find is critically important, you probably find it as you run the University, but I think since we have a student population and the population beyond it will be important, on-going communication. People want to feel like that their safety and their health is being really thoughtfully considered so even beyond when they come back and how to come back but all of the thoughtful deliberations that go into that, to the extent that you can share even tidbits of that with the University community. I think it goes a real long way. I know in my company we're doing it, just extensive communication with our various constituencies. And I can't tell you how many notes I'm getting from people saying they appreciate it, because people want to feel connected and protected and that their health is really the top consideration, and some of that is just reassurance and communication. So, you know, I know there's a lot of work yet to be done, Chris, but to the extent that you can keep communication at a high level, I think it's going to be valuable for you.”

President Fiorentino replies, “So, I'm happy to report that we actually finalized an update today with that in mind, that we've realized that it's not acceptable to just tell them that we'll decide in July when we have enough information. We're going to keep them apprised of what we know, what we're thinking about, the possibilities, because they're interested in knowing that, they deserve to know that. So, we thank you for that comment and we are planning to make regular updates on what we're doing, what we're thinking about, even if we're not getting to conclusions, because it's going to be a while before we're able to do that.”

Member Dozor inquires, “This is Barry, when do we informally or formally meet again? What's ahead for us?”

Rachel Shearer responds, “So, I do have the list of 2020-2021 dates that I actually have ready to send to you as soon as this meeting is over. We will be meeting again in October.”

Member Dozor replies, “Well, would it make any sense to have an informal meeting in September before a formal meeting in October? I leave that up to the Chair but maybe we should informally meet in late September, a couple weeks before a more formal meeting too?”

Member Tomlinson continues, “I think that's a great idea. I'll talk to the President we'll stay close to the administration and the Board of Governors Like I said, this is going to be a very, very difficult situation. I think we should schedule something even maybe earlier because this decision has been made a lot earlier and the diversity of opinion in this is pretty strong. And the thing that worries me most about this, Barry, is that numbers are going to look pretty good in July. June numbers are coming down, the thing we need the health experts to tell us is what do they think this rebound's going to look like in the fall. So, I think that, yeah I'll talk to Chris and we'll, get an informal session scheduled so that we can all hash this out.”

Member Dozor, “And, another thought. I remember when the President had to make the tough decision very quickly about going online and everything and it did help me when he had a bit of a phone conference, I think, and he really brought us up to date and told us what he had to do within days and of course he did it, but that was helpful. You know, reaching out when he did that.”

Member Tomlinson, “We’ll make sure that happens.”

President Fiorentino continues, “I will add that we have a very important Board of Governors meeting in July where a lot of key decisions are likely to be made. And certainly, sometime after that, and Tommy, I’m inclined to agree maybe earlier than September would be a good time, even if it’s just a phone call or one of these things to bring you all up to speed on where things are. I’m happy to do that.”

Member Tomlinson, “Yeah, the reason I talk about this is, as I watch what’s going on, as people become polarized and people think from different regions, they have different perspectives on this disease. We have to take into consideration where our students are coming from and where we’re going to house them, where they’re coming from and where we’re putting them in classrooms and I know that the Chancellor and the System is taking this very seriously and the Secretary of Health and the Governor is going to be taking this very seriously. So, it’s good. And we’re going to have a lot of people, I mean I watched in Harrisburg yesterday, leaders saying we have to open up these schools, we have to open these colleges and so, we’re going to have a lot of people out there saying we have to open these, we can’t financially withstand this for another semester or year, and I’m seeing different people speak like that. And I’m very concerned. So, we’re going to have to keep talking with each other.”

Member Moskowitz, “And also, the possibility that we open and then we end up having a close again, which is really difficult. And so, there's just a lot of unknowns and preparation that has to be done for any event which Chris, I mean it's amazing how quickly you were able to turn that West Chester ship. I don't know how many times you can flip it back and forth.”

President Fiorentino replies, “So, one of the contingencies we're looking at is, even if we start face to face in the fall, we can very well find ourselves in a similar position to what we had in the spring, where we're going to have to adjust. And we have a whole bunch of scenarios and we're going to be ready for whatever decision is made, and the faculty will have sufficient lead time to be ready and then we'll adjust because you know, we're not going to know what happens until it happens so.”

Member Moskowitz, “Yeah, there's no doubt in my mind that West Chester will fare well no matter what. I do worry about some of the others but West Chester will do well.”

Member Tomlinson, “That's exactly right, Marian. There's schools that this could more than devastate and there's going to be I'm sure, a contingency that's going to want to try to move on. But there's going to be a strong diversity of opinion on this, but I'm worried about the fall I'm very worried about a rebound in the fall, no matter how well the numbers look. But then there's, are some schools going to survive? I understand, thank you.”

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**AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Matlawski, “Thank you, anyone else. With that, then I think we have reached the end and I thank you for joining us. I want to extend everyone best wishes for what I hope is a happy and healthy summer ahead and hope for things to get better. So, thank you all for participating and I would entertain a motion to adjourn at this time.”

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**MOTION (IRELAND/TOMLINSON)**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:59 P.M.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marian Moskowitz".

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Marian Moskowitz