

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
PHILIPS MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR BOARD ROOM
JANUARY 30, 2020
5:05 PM**

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Matlawski called the meeting to order. Chair Matlawski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present were Members: Matlawski, Ireland, Tomlinson, Fillippo, Dozor, Silberman, Kaliszak, Kinsey,

Absent but accounted for were Members: Franklin, Lewis, Moskowitz

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

MOTION (FILLIPPO/DOZOR)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2019 MEETING AS PRESENTED

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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

None

AGENDA ITEM IV – REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Matlawski, “Next, the report of the Council Chairperson, my only report is that there will be an executive session held at the conclusion of the COT meeting this evening and I ask all members to stay for that.”

AGENDA ITEM V – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Chairperson Matlawski, “Report of the University President, I now call on President Fiorentino for his report. Chris, if I may?”

President Fiorentino, “Thank you very much Adam. Well, as you can already tell from other reports, we have lots of great stuff going on. There are a few things I would like to touch on and highlight and update you on. One thing I’ll mention, obviously there’s a lot of conversation about things going on at the system and one of the key initiatives right now is the system sustainability plan process. Which is being very ably led by Laurie Bernotsky on behalf of the system, she seems to be spending more time in Harrisburg than in West Chester these days but we, while we miss having her around, we’re very pleased that she’s up there leading this process with three of her colleagues from around the system and essentially this is a process, 9 of the universities have been identified as having varying degrees of fiscal challenges and these schools have been asked to submit plans about how they’re going to get back to fiscal sustainability and this is a very collaborative process that the Provost and Finance and Administration Vice Presidents are participating. Ultimately, the Presidents have a retreat on February 10th and 11th and we’re going to be working on this. And frankly, we’re going to have an opportunity to address issues with our colleagues about what they need to do to get back in line because obviously, if money is being moved from institutions like West Chester or Slippery Rock to other schools appropriation dollars, it’s reasonable for us to expect some level of accountability and the Chancellor and the board are committed to that so we’re optimistic about this process playing out over a few

years and taking some of these schools that are really struggling and putting them back onto better footing, that would be a good thing for them and a good thing for us based on some of the fiscal risks associated with that so we'll certainly keep you posted on that process. There was a special Board of Governors meeting this morning that I'm actually happy to report on. The Governor, in the course of the process that led to Cheyney's successful reaccreditation, had pledged 40 million dollars to essentially retire Cheyney's debt to the system, and really to the other universities. And as we've talked about along the way, we were on the hook for a significant portion of this amount which had accumulated to about \$40M , also Cheyney continued to owe us \$1.7M from the services that we had provided for them. We had been paid \$1.3M of the \$3M that they owed us and \$1.7M was outstanding. So, the Governor proposed this money, this is money that has come out of the Dept. of General Services, and a plan has been put together that is fairly complex, I can spare you the details, if you're interested I can certainly explain it to you but, essentially they have put together a plan that the Governor has put up the money that will cover the Cheyney obligation and eliminate the need for the Board Resolution of 2017 that essentially said that if Cheyney balanced its budget that it would be forgiven those amounts and essentially each of the other 13 universities would be kicking in a share of that. That resolution was rescinded so the Governor has now put forward the money to cover that obligation so we are no longer potentially on the hook for our share of that and in addition to that, the resolution committed the \$1.7M outstanding balance owed to us by Cheyney will be paid back to us. So, this is all good news for West Chester and essentially stabilizes the situation at Cheyney, eliminates the \$40M of accumulated debt that they have been carrying over the past several years."

Member Silberman, "That just occurred today?"

President Fiorentino, "That was this morning and the Board voted on approving the plan and also on rescinding the resolution that had been passed in 2017 so, that's the current state of things."

Member Fillippo, "Do they have a budget that goes along with that?"

President Fiorentino, "They?"

Member Fillippo, "Cheyney?"

President Fiorentino, "This action itself only deals with the accumulated debt. The situation going forward remains challenging for Cheyney."

Member Fillippo, "Same as always?"

President Fiorentino, "Yeah, nothing about this action put them in any improved position from this point forward. This is simply all the loans that they received over the past 5 years to keep them afloat and nobody is suggesting that this has solved all their challenges going forward. They still have those challenges and President Walton is working very hard to overcome those challenges."

Member Fillippo, "Those loans were owed to the Commonwealth? Who do those loans go to?"

President Fiorentino, “Those loans essentially came from...”

Member Dozor, “Who do they actually pay?”

President Fiorentino, “It was characterized as the investment fund but it really is, is the accumulated reserves of all the universities. We have reserves that are on our books that are not currently being used by us and other schools, most of the other schools, have some amount, and so a portion of that was loaned...”

Member Dozor, “Will they be paid back? I mean in reality, in reality, does the commonwealth take that 40 million dollars and it’s transferred to the system?”

President Fiorentino, “Yes.”

Member Dozor, “Excellent.”

President Fiorentino, “So basically, that obligation, and it’s going to be a process over several years to do it because they’re doing it in relation to capital projects. But essentially, the resolution that had us on the hook is gone so, we’re no longer obligated in any way. So, it is very good news and we thank the Governor for finding a solution that works to protect the institutions and to assist Cheyney. OK? Any other questions on that one?”

Member Dozor, “Hopefully, the Governor’s statue will be put up on Cheyney’s campus.”

President Fiorentino, “Moving on. Some other good news, for years we have had a designation as a Carnegie Community Engagement classified university, which is a great kudos for us, this is something that measures our engagement in the community and the commitment, which a lot of it is driven out of student affairs and in this most recent round, Dr. Davenport and Dr. Bernotsky and others came and indicated to me that Carnegie had upped the ante on achieving this classification, it was going to be much more challenging, they raised the standards. They believed that we were still capable of achieving the standards but it was going to take an escalated effort and, I am pleased to report that we mounted the escalated effort and we have been reestablished as a Carnegie Community Engaged university which is a real feather in the cap of the institution. And congratulations to Dr. Davenport, Dr. Bernotsky, and everybody who participated in making sure we met that standard. And this has to do with things like the student volunteerism on the campus and all the great activities that are going on and relating to West Chester’s engagement with our community. We’ve had some new rankings that have come out, you know we always try to keep an eye on how we’re being viewed. And of course, you’re all familiar with the US News and World Report rankings, two that have been announced recently is our online MBA program, which we’re very proud of, we’ve had incredible growth in this program, and we have cracked into the top 50 nationally for the ranking of our MBA program at number 47. This is of all online MBA programs in the country so, that is very impressive. The other one, also very impressive, US News and World Report rankings for public universities in the north, we have moved up to number 12. When we first started looking at this we were well down so, this is an incredible climb. And one of the interesting things about this ranking, I’ve always considered it to be a little unfair because 25% of it is measured just on people’s subjective opinion

of a university so, the schools that've always been seen as good tend to continue being seen as good but for somebody to crack into the top ranking like this, I'm not feeling so badly about that because that's saying that word about West Chester is getting out there and people's perceptions of us, and these are people in higher education, presidents of other universities for example who are being asked about West Chester and they're saying very positive things about us. So, that's a very good indicator that we are not only doing great but, people know we're doing great and that can only serve us well in terms of future recruitment and ongoing success of the institution."

Member Tomlinson, "When you say the north, what are you talking about, like the Mid-Atlantic? New England?"

President Fiorentino, "It's New York, I think New England is separate."

Member Tomlinson, "So it'd be the Mid-Atlantic region?"

President Fiorentino, "It's definitely New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania..."

Member Tomlinson, "Virginia?"

President Fiorentino, "Maryland, Delaware. Actually, most of the schools in the top 10 are either SUNY campuses, The College of New Jersey is a top school, Stockton is up there in the top 10. And you know I'm looking at the list of schools in the top 10 and I'm thinking, 'OK we're still working our way in there.' So, we'll keep you posted on that in the future."

Member Silberman, “Did I hear that one of our recent grads got into Harvard Medical School, is that accurate?”

President Fiorentino, “That’s correct. That young man, it was featured in the alumni magazine if you want to read it but, he came in here as an ADP student, which of course the ADP students are the students who are seen as at risk as they come into the university, and received a full scholarship to Harvard Medical School. So, you want to feel a sense of pride about what’s going on here, go read that article, it’s really great.”

Member Silberman, “We ought to try and get some publicity on that one too, you know?”

President Fiorentino, “Well, we’ve been talking it up and we featured him on the webpage and so forth but it is very, very incredible.”

Member Silberman, “Very impressive.”

President Fiorentino, “A few other things, the Governor has invited all of the PASSHE presidents to come to his budget address on February 4th so I will be venturing up for that and then we’re all invited back to a luncheon at the mansion so that’s interesting. So, we’ll go and rub elbows up there and get a firsthand look at what the Governor is proposing for the budget and certainly report that. We just had a report, the Foundation engaged a consulting firm to do a campaign feasibility study and we just had a report from that consulting

firm. They reported yesterday at the Foundation Board meeting and came and met with me one on one and it's an interesting process, we haven't done a review as in depth as this- looking at giving us a good sense of the challenges and opportunities associated with our next campaign and some of you may have been interviewed for this but we've gotten some great feedback and we're going to be discussing it at our next cabinet meeting and we will certainly have more to say to you about this in the near future. But, a very thorough assessment of what our potential might be and giving us some information to have some conversations about what we might choose to target so stay tuned, we'll have more on that in the future. I'm also pleased to report that we had a very productive meeting with leadership in the local municipalities, I think it was last week now, West Chester Borough and West Goshen Township in particular. Of course, it's very important for us to maintain good relations with them, we want to be good neighbors and obviously many of our students live in the community and we have issues around getting zoning approvals, you know we have the overlay district that we've been working on for several years now. What seems to have come out of this meeting, well a couple of things, as you're aware, we received your approval for the purchase of 204 Carter Drive and one of the issues that was outstanding associated with this was to make sure that we could use it the way we needed to use it and we needed to received approval from West Goshen Township and we did, following this meeting the other night, we did receive a letter from West Goshen authorizing us to use this building in the manner that we need to be able to use it. So, that puts us in a position to go forward with the process. And we did by the way receive the authorization from the board on the heels of your approval to proceed with that purchase. So that's a good thing, that's going to give us some much needed additional office space on the perimeter of the campus. You've seen the update that Gary provided on the Sciences and Engineering Center and the Commons, we are of course very excited about this, it's great to see it now in a position where we can start to get some of the work on the inside done and having the parking garage added to our stock of parking spaces by next fall is wonderful. And, we

are having an executive session and we'll have some additional issues to discuss during that time. And with that, I now ask for the approval of Purchase Orders and Contracts for October and November 2019. Thank you, this concludes my report."

MOTION (FILLIPPO/SILBERMAN):

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS AND CONTRACTS
FOR OCTOBER 2019 AND NOVEMBER 2019**

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

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.

Chairperson Matlawski reported for the Finance and Administration Committee: I understand no body from that committee is here so I'll go ahead and ask for a motion on...first I'm going to ask that someone make a motion to adopt the following resolution. May I have a motion for that?

MOTION (TOMLINSON/DOZOR):

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COT OF WCUPA HEREBY APPROVES THE TRANSFER-IN OF \$2,528,500 FROM THE HOUSING AND LIFE CYCLE RESERVE FOR THE REPAYMENT OF COLLEGE ARMS BONDS, SERIES AL, WHICH WILL BE PAID OUT OF THE HOUSING AUXILIARY OPERATING BUDGET IN MARCH OR APRIL 2020.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

MOTION (TOMLINSON/DOZOR):

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COT OF WCU HEREBY APPROVES THE TRANSFER OF \$891,625 IN FROM THE RECREATION CENTER, LIFE CYCLE RESERVE, AND THE RELEASE OF PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,323,125 FOR THE REPAYMENT OF THE SERIES AL BONDS ON BEHALF OF RECREATION CENTER AUXILIARY IN MARCH/APRIL 2020.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Chairperson Matlawski continues, "What's next? OK, these are all fees: a resolution for the Health Fee which would approve an increase of \$24.96 per semester to the Health Fee, a new fee of \$171.78 per semester would be applicable for both undergraduate and graduate students, effective in the fall.

MOTION (KINSEY/IRELAND)

HEALTH FEE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES AN INCREASE OF \$24.96 PER SEMESTER TO THE HEALTH FEE. THE NEW FEE OF \$171.78 PER SEMESTER IS APPLICABLE FOR BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS EFFECTIVE THE FALL SEMESTER 2020.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Chairperson Matlawski goes on, "Next resolution would be the Auxiliary Enhancement Fee, which would approve the reallocation of the Auxiliary Enhancement fee so that 100% of the fee is designated to the Sykes Student Union Life Cycle Reserve, for future upgrades to Sykes Student Union, effective in the fall."

MOTION (KINSEY/IRELAND)

AUXILIARY ENHANCEMENT FEE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE REALLOCATION OF THE AUXILIARY ENHANCEMENT FEE SO THAT 100% OF THE FEE IS DESIGNATED TO THE SYKES STUDENT UNION LIFE CYCLE RESERVE FOR FUTURE UPGRADES TO THE SYKES STUDENT UNION, EFFECTIVE FALL SEMESTER 2020

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Chairperson Matlawski continues, “Next one would be the Residence Hall Fees, Council would approve various fees, I think everyone’s seen them, rates have been determined in accordance with the state system of higher education policy requirements. I ask for a motion to approve all three resolutions.”

MOTION (KINSEY/IRELAND)

RESIDENCE HALL FEE

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.

Chairperson Matlawski, “I think that’s the report for Finance and Administration. Academic and Student Affairs, Senator Tomlinson?”

Member Tomlinson, “I think we just want to incorporate, of course we’ve already heard, a committee into the record today.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “Thank you very much. University Affairs, Mr. Silberman?”

Member Dozor, “Do we have student affairs?”

Member Kaliszak, “No, I do not have anything.”

Member Silberman: I have an abbreviated report.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “Please, sir.”

Member Silberman, “In addition to the committee report submitted earlier I’d like to highlight one terrific collaboration between the classroom and our community. College of Business and Public Management and Marketing Department, Cottrell Entrepreneurial Center, and the Center for Community Solutions collaborated on a semester project where 23 students were assigned to work with 4 local businesses, the students assisted the companies in their marketing strategies and provided research and feedback to help the owners understand their competitors and how they could improve their social media presence. The students presented their findings to their owners, classmates, and other attendees during finals week. And this concludes my report.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “Thank you Mr. Silberman.”

AGENDA ITEM IX – REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

None

AGENDA ITEM X – REPORT OF LIASON PERSON TO CONSTITUENCIES:

Member Dozor, “As to constituencies, regarding PACT, Pennsylvania Association the Council of Trustees, on Tuesday we all received an email - a

save the date email - about the PACT conference in Harrisburg at the Hilton Hotel. Notice that within the next few weeks we're going to receive additional information about registration and about times and costs and things like that. So, assuming you can come up for the day or two days, I assume that we'll be contacting Rachel and Rachel will assist us in doing the registrations because usually from my experience there's a fee or two that has to be advanced, I'm not sure about that. Maybe not? So, we could probably do it individually."

Member Tomlinson, "Is there a date?"

Member Dozor, "Yes, it's April 23rd/24th, which I think is a Thursday/Friday. So anyway, I'm going to try to get up there for the day, maybe overnight. Eli might keep me company and we'll see."

Member Kinsey, "You know as we do planning, I have for April 23rd as WCU informational dinner and campus tour so if we're looking to partake in that then we might have to reschedule."

Member Dozor, "Is our tour on April 23?"

Member Kinsey, "I have April 23 on my calendar."

President Fiorentino, "Let me just check."

Matlawski, "So that might have to be changed."

Member Dozor, "It's possible not many people will be going to Harrisburg so, you know, we can not change it unless we have to. And if this new bill passes, that's the last tour."

Chairperson Matlawski, "Anything else? OK. Thank you, Judge Dozor."

AGENDA ITEM XI – OLD BUSINESS:

None

AGENDA ITEM XII – NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Matlawski, "Under new business, Dr. Vilella, more with respect to the changes to the by-laws and committees, sir."

Dr. Vilella, "The by-law change which is in your packets."

Member Dozor, "Yeah help me, did we make those little changes we talked about last time?"

Dr. Vilella, "I did."

Member Dozor, "Where would I find them, I couldn't see them, they're not marked."

Dr. Vilella, "They're in yellow."

Member Dozor, "Oh yeah, they are."

Dr. Villella, “So, in terms of standing committees, you asked me to change that it’s a minimum of two (2) council members so, we did that for Finance and Administration, we did it for Academic and Student Affairs, and for University Affairs the same. So those three (3) committees are number of members has changed as you asked us to do so that’s that piece. Fourth committee which used to be Campus Resources & Infrastructure, the suggestion is that we delete that committee because the reporting pieces, technology; facilities; and sustainability, are absorbed into the Finance and Administration and University Affairs committees. The time of meetings, there’s some old wording in there because it says with the exception of the campus development facilities committee, which we would be deleting so, we would just take that wording out. Last, in Section V, Powers and Duties committees, just need to update to what the new committees structure is, instead of Finance and Budget it’s now Finance and Administration.”

Member Dozor, “I move we approve the by-laws and regulations and the new...”

Chairperson Matlawski, “Those changes?”

Member Dozor, “With those changes as described.”

Chairperson Matlawski, “As presented?”

Member Dozor, “As presented.”

Chairperson Matlawski, "Is there a second to that motion?"

Member Tomlinson, "Second."

Chairperson Matlawski, "Is there any discussion? And you believe they're in order, Dr. Villella?"

Chairperson Matlawski, "I will ask for a vote then."

AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Matlawski, "Are there any other matters to be brought before Council? At this point I would entertain a motion to adjourn if there are none."

MOTION (DOZOR/TOMINSON):

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:36 P.M.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schick