AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Tomlinson called the meeting to order and announces the continued 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, Moskowitz, Schick, Tomlinson.

Absent but accounted for were Members: Silfa

Chairperson Tomlinson proceeds with the meeting after role call is complete.

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

MOTION (FRANKLIN/IRELAND)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2021 MEETING AS PRESENTED

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “I now ask that the approval of the Minutes of the October 7, 2021 meeting, as presented. I have a motion from Chris
Franklin, seconded by Jon Ireland. Any questions on the motion? Any negative votes on the motion? Seeing none, the minutes of the meeting of October 7 are now approved.

This is our public comment meeting, at this time, we invite anyone who wishes to address the Council of Trustees please use the raise hand feature which will put you into the queue. When it is your turn, we will announce your name and will open your microphone for comment. Please limit your remarks to two minutes. I would like to welcome Margaret Ervin to the microphone.

Margaret Ervin replies, There we go, is that working? You’ve got it? OK, great! Greetings from the ether. My name is Margaret Ervin, I’m the President of APSCUF at West Chester University and I appreciate being recognized to speak. So, what I’d like to return to again, as I did at the last Council of Trustees meeting, is the issue of COVID mitigation. I know we’re all tired of thinking about it and hearing about it, but here we are, it’s our reality. I want to speak with gratitude for the way our administration has handled masking and testing. And President Fiorentino sent out a message just this afternoon assuring the campus community that the masking policy and testing policy remains in effect for the spring semester, and I applaud that decision. The numbers of COVID cases on campus have been very low to this point, and I think that we’ve all breathed a big sigh of relief to see that. This could be in part because of the high number of on campus students who were vaccinated. Looking at our COVID dashboard, I see that roughly 85% of students who live on campus are vaccinated so, that means when they’re in the dining halls eating, they have a level of protection that likely creates a dead end for much COVID infection. But it’s also masking, which applies to all students, faculty, and staff that has likely kept COVID and other illnesses such as the flu from spreading on our campus.
The deadly and debilitating nature of COVID has not changed. While faculty have a high rate of vaccination, and while their young children are now eligible for vaccination, the total number of students on campus and off campus students combined, who are vaccinated has not moved above approximately 65%. This is due to the far lower number of off-campus students who are vaccinated. The Union, APSCUF, sought to incentivize new vaccinations by offering scholarship money. But the number of new vaccinations since September 15th when WCU ran the first vaccine clinic on campus is under 200 new students vaccinated. Now it has been a great relief, as I mentioned, to see the low numbers, both at WCU and in Chester County. However, we can’t let our guard down, especially as we move into the colder months when people will not be able to socialize outdoors. It's likely that COVID will resurge as people in Chester County eat unmasked indoors at restaurants, party indoors at bars without masks, go to gyms unmasked, and so on.

When it comes to a pandemic, no place is an island and our masking policy at West Chester University will not be able to insulate us entirely because of the fact that there's no masking at local businesses, just a few blocks away. Therefore, I urge the Council of Trustees not to be complacent with the status quo, which currently is voluntary vaccination. I urge you to support continued pursuance of a vaccine mandate as an option for West Chester University. Let's not allow ourselves to be lulled into inaction. I, and I know you, hope that we will not have cause to regret that we do not have a vaccine mandate.

It is quite realistic to have concerns that we may see a winter surge in COVID that would force the university to move to its next tier of COVID mitigation strategies. Illness and potentially resultant lifelong disability, not to mention deaths. are not something anyone wants to see at our West Chester University community.
So, in an environment now in which an increasing number of institutions of higher education do have vaccine mandates compared to the fall, the political environment may soften so please do support such a move, if its success is even marginally possible. And I thank you for your time and attention this afternoon, and I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Margaret, thank you very much for your comments, we certainly will take them under consideration. We appreciate your concerns, in these matters, and you have a good Thanksgiving holiday too. Thank you, Margaret.”

Margaret Ervin replies, “Thank you.”

Bonnie Young, “Mark, you should have access to the microphone.”

Mark Davie replies, “Yes, hi my name is Mark Davie, I am a graduate assistant over at Campus Recreation. I’m at West Chester for my Masters of Urban and Regional Planning. I was curious to know what criteria is used to calculate Graduate Assistant Stipends at the University? As I understand it, a full-time Graduate Assistant Stipend is $2,500 a semester, times two semesters is $5,000 a year. I was just curious to know where that number comes from and I reached out to the Grad School office and the Provost Office last week and have not received a response, so I just wanted to know if someone here might know.”
Dr. Osgood responds, “Hi Mark, so actually, I will just say that we have received your email, we’re working on responding to it. So the stipend is set by budgetary allocation, and so I would just tell you that the 5,000 I think it’s not representative of the total compensation that Graduate Assistant’s receive because it’s also connected to the tuition, which a real cost for the University, so the $5,000 is based on the University’s budget ability and so that’s what it has been set at, the larger context of the overall budget package as well.”

Mark Davie replies, “Okay.”

Chairperson Tomlinson responds, “That satisfactory?”

Mark Davie replies, “I guess.”

Chairperson Tomlinson responds, “Well, if you leave some information, maybe we already have your information, and if we can be in contact with you, if you need further information.”

Mark Davie replies, “Okay, thank you very much.”

Chairperson Tomlinson thanks Mark for his comment to which Mark thanks the members for their time.
AGENDA ITEM IV – REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

None

AGENDA ITEM V – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Chairperson Tomlinson, “Now we will move on to the University President’s presentation. I call on President Fiorentino to give his remarks and his presentation.”

President Fiorentino proceeds with his report. “Thank you, Senator. And good evening or good late afternoon everyone, great to see you. And Margaret, thank you for your comments. I do want to just follow up and briefly say that it has certainly been a challenging, and a little bit tense, semester, but we're wrapping up week 12, if I'm counting correctly, and things are very stable here. We're seeing very low levels of infection, our testing protocols are working and generally speaking, the students are behaving or conforming to what we need them to do, which is wearing their mask. And so, we're very pleased with how this has worked out. I would have to say that when we started, there was a lot of uncertainty and anxiety and this probably is somewhere in the range of a best case outcome for us, given what we were facing when we started this semester. The guidance was that if we had much of the community vaccinated and required masks indoors that we'd be able to keep the community safe and that seems to have been borne out so we're very pleased. Again the students, I talked to lots of students, Dr Davenport mentioned that we met with student leaders this morning and the students are delighted to be here, enjoying this semester. They're living with the inconvenience of code and the masking but we've had, to a great extent, a pretty normal semester, especially compared to last year.
Margaret referenced the announcement about spring. The guidance that we're looking at and the circumstances that we face, right now, as we look towards spring suggest that we need to be vigilant we're trying to message right now around the need for vigilance, this is not a time to drop our guards. So, we're planning to move into the spring semester with the same requirements for masking and for testing and hopefully we'll be able to continue. Obviously, we're concerned about what might happen over the Thanksgiving break that's coming up next week, and then of course the break between semesters, but we're confident that if we can continue with the safe practices that we're engaged in we'll be able to continue to operate. And again, we've made it very clear to our community, to our students, that if we start to see significant increases in the incidence of the COVID virus on campus we are prepared to pivot to remote delivery, in order to keep the community safe. And our hope is that everyone will continue to behave in a manner that will not require us to take such an action.

Other things I wanted to comment on quickly, a couple of the Vice Presidents have referenced a few things, but obviously the 150 Forward Campaign for West Chester is moving along. We're out in the community, meeting with prospective donors. We're asking people to support us, asking for leadership gifts so, we're well underway.

I'm pleased to report that just before the meeting today, I had the opportunity to accept a check from Essential Utilities. Chris Franklin came to campus and we did a little tour of the food pantry and he had an opportunity to experience the passion that exists over there in the members of our university community who are participating, both students and staff, supporting our students and we're very grateful to Essential Utilities for their support.

I'll also mentioned that Chris and I had a chance to zip in and do a quick tour of the SECC building and anybody who would like a tour, we're delighted to make a time for you to come and see it. Regarding the building, it's moving
closer and closer to completion. We have been operating the academic portion of the building this semester and we're getting very close to completing the dining side of the building and we continue to be optimistic that we're going to be able to open it in time for the start of the spring semester. There are some things that have to happen, we have to get all of our licensing lined up and our food handling approvals lined up and get all the finishing touches done, but if everything goes well, that building will be up and operating. Mostly, they're still going to be a few more things based on some supply chain problems we haven't gotten all the materials, we need to get the finishing touches for the whole building. Chris, you've had a chance to see it and talk to some of the nursing students and it's really quite an amazing facility.

Also, the 460-car garage that's contiguous to the new building is really starting to look like a garage, now it's up, it's starting to get the electricity in there and run all the necessary conduits and we're expecting that at some point during the spring semester, perhaps at spring break, we're going to be able to put that new parking garage into use and we're looking forward to that occurring.

Just a quick word on system updates. Laurie talked a little bit about the work being done on the new allocation formula, which we're very excited about because we have felt for a long time that the formula has been tipped in a direction that is not favorable to the students at West Chester University and we're operating now on a set of principles that we believe is intended to correct that. And Laurie will be working on the team and I told her to go in there and advocate for our students and I'm very confident that she will. And we have three Presidents whom I have a lot of confidence in, who are working with an additional team of people. So we look forward to that occurring.

The work continues on the university integrations, the two groups of three. They're moving forward, they're starting to develop curriculum. The Chancellor has implemented a program where he's putting together peer review teams to go in and work with some of the campuses that have not demonstrated
sufficient progress towards their CPP goals, they're basically their sustainability goals, and Laurie and I have been asked to serve on the first team that is assessing the Western integration. We've begun to do the work on that but we've been asked to go in and really take a look and give our two cents, both to the people on the campus and to the Chancellor, because in January when he receives a status report, he has to decide whether he believes they're making sufficient progress towards the goals or not. So, Laurie and I and actually, Zeb and Tracey, a number of us, are putting a lot of time in supporting the system and we're pleased to do it and, of course, our focus is on doing everything we can to ensure that the system is stable because that's in the best interest of West Chester University. So, I thank all the members of our leadership team who are participating in the work at the system level and we will continue to try to support our colleagues.

A few other things that were mentioned that with the new branding, applications are trending very nicely. The latest report I've seen is that year over year we like to track the applications where we were at this point in time last year, and the latest snapshot that I've seen, we are 950 applications above where we were last year at this time and that's outstanding, there's no question about it. And our PR folks attribute that significantly to the new branding effort that's underway that's targeted at our primary target population of traditional age students.

I'm also very pleased to report that now that we've moved people into the new Sciences and Engineering Center from Sturzebecker, that the planning is going full speed ahead on the Sturzebecker project which is going to house kinesiology, sports medicine, and the athletics. I had a chance to see some plans today that Todd and Gary Bixby showed and I think that, well both the academic programs that are down there and to a great extent, the athletic programs are going to be tickled, because we're really for the first time in a long time, going to be able to dedicate sufficient space to our athletic
programs, coaches offices, and appropriate locker rooms. And this is something, it's a DGS funded project, we're working hard and making sure the HVAC is working well so that the gym floors are safe, and the project again, is in the planning stage and I guess it's projected to be completed about 2025. And it's going to be a huge game changer along with all these other huge game changers we've had on this campus in the in the last few years.

On a similar vein, work is beginning on our facilities master plan. It's been a few years since we updated our plan and we're due for an update. In particular, because of the work that has been completed by both the Borough of West Chester and West Goshen Township completing the overlay district that we've been working with them on. Kudos to John Villella for running that thing to ground, it took us longer than we thought, but John hung in there and we got the final approvals from both the borough and the township. And one of the things that they're expecting to see from us, which is something we expect of ourselves, is to really step back and reflect on the facilities needs on the campus. And we're planning an initial effort in I guess late January, where we're going to get together for a half day and really start to do the work on this project. So, certainly the Council of Trustees will be very involved in that as will the campus community.

Also want to report that we're piloting a hybrid work from home model based on the success that we enjoyed during our remote year where our employees basically worked from home. There's a lot of moving in this direction very widely in the country, and you know where we have concerns about our ability to keep our workforce, we have a lot of open positions right now, there's a lot of news about people changing jobs, so we're piloting this. Obviously, we need to make sure that the work of the institution is getting done, but each of the Vice Presidents has worked within his or her division to put together a plan that would enable our employees to have a little more flexibility in their work schedules and I believe this is going to be very good for morale and I have
challenged the Cabinet members to ensure that we’re assessing this from the perspective of whether or not the work of the university is continuing effectively. So we’ll see how that goes but I’m optimistic based on how our overall workforce, faculty, staff, have stepped up and performed very effectively under very difficult circumstances, during our remote year. This remote policy does not apply to our courses, we will continue to offer our courses in the manner that we always have. We do have some that are online but, our expectation is that the courses that have been traditionally offered face to face will continue to be offered in that manner.

A couple of other interesting tidbits. We’ve had visits recently from the Secretary of Labor, Martin Walsh, and that's from the Federal Government of Joe Biden, Secretary of Labor came to campus with Representative Houlahan to meet with us to learn about what we’re doing on this campus to help to prepare for the workforce needs of the region. We’ve also had had recent visits from Secretary of Education from the Commonwealth, Noe Ortega. And just this week we had a visit from Secretary Robert Torres who’s the Secretary of Aging, who came to really showcase a program that we have, actually, in partnership with Widener University where we have students from both social work and the public health program interacting with senior citizens, really both to the benefit of the students who are having an opportunity to have conversations with these senior citizens, and of course the senior citizens are delighted to be able to sit and have conversations with young people. And we had an opportunity to hear some of the student’s stories, and we Zoomed in some of the senior citizens who talked about their experiences; it was just a wonderful couple of hours. It was a press conference and again, the Secretary Torres came down to West Chester to really praise us for this program and to and to report on it and to encourage other universities and colleges to engage in these in these sorts of activities.
And one last thing I’ll mention. I had an opportunity, you know we recently launched our first-year experience program that we've talked to you about, where we have faculty team teaching groups of first-year students to really get them prepared for success and I had a chance, I was invited this morning to go and review the presentations, the research presentations by one of these classes and they worked in teams and I got a chance to hear their research presentations mainly around challenges of racism and closing the achievement gaps, things that we've talked about here. And the presentations were absolutely wonderful. The students were poised, and professional, and prepared, and did incredible research so I just want to pass that on. Kudos to Academic Affairs for putting together such an outstanding program. And we all should be very proud of the performance of the students at this institution, they're just truly outstanding.

So, that concludes my comments and with that I will now ask for the approval of purchase orders and contracts for August 1st through September 30 of 2021.

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**MOTION (DOZOR/MOSKOWITZ):**

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS AND CONTRACTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021.**

**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 Tomlinson continues the meeting, “Would a member of each committee please report that the committee has met, provide a summary of your committee meeting, and present resolutions for consideration? First is Finance and Administration resolution with Chris Franklin.”

Member Franklin proceeds, “Thank you Chairman, and the committee has met in advance of the Council of Trustees meeting, we have one resolution to propose this evening, it’s about the audited financials we heard about from the auditors earlier. Here’s the resolution that I’ll move.”

MOTION (FRANKLIN/DOZOR):


MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Member Franklin, “That will do it, thank you very much.”

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Academic and Student Affairs, Sue Schick.”
Member Schick reports, “The committee of Academic and Student Affairs has met and we do not have any formal business resolutions to pass.”

Vice Chair Dozor requests a summary of the academic affairs committee be incorporated into the minutes. Chairperson Tomlinson acknowledges request.

Summary:

- Dean Heinerichs discussed plans for improving the institutions health services and mental health first aid to our campus in support of the university’s strategic plan. WCU is now offering a mental health first aid course for those seeking to participate in empowering individuals in intervening to help, and/or seeking help for themselves through various resources. Over 1,200 individuals at WCU have voluntarily participated in this course in an effort to help those in need. Extending this work beyond the University Community and branching into assisting Chester County and soon to be the YMCA to help facilitate these mental health first aid courses for community members as well.

- After negotiations process, WCU has secured it’s own instance as part of the shared student info system. Chancellor has spoken about his objective bringing all schools onto a single system, WCU has been seeking to create an environment to maintain it’s own autonomy and success. We will have the same vendor, but operate our own cloud database environment.

- Career Development Center launched 3 initiatives recently. 150 Internships Challenge, partnering with Foundation and several other offices. This is meant to obtain 150 NEW internship opportunities for our students. Already receive 30 new opportunities. Created new partnership with Chester County Economic Development Council to help facilitate this initiative. The second piece of this initiative is to obtain funding for
those who have unpaid internships with a financial need. To date, $55,000 has been raised for this initiative.
- Fall Athletic Team updates.

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Thank you very much. University Affairs, Mr. Ireland?”

Member Ireland proceeds, “So, Mr. Chairman Tomlinson, the University Affairs committee has one resolution with the Council of Trustees consideration, and I will read that resolution.”

**MOTION (IRELAND/FILLIPPO):**

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT, HEREBY CERTIFIES, AS PER BOARD OF GOVERNORS’ POLICY 1985-04-A, THAT THE FOLLOWING AFFILIATED ENTITIES MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY OR PROVIDE SIMILAR BENEFITS ON A REGULAR BASIS, SATISFACTORY TO THIS COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AND TO THE PRESIDENT.

STUDENT SERVICES, INC.
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES ALSO CERTIFIES THAT, TO THE BEST OF ITS KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THE AFFILIATED

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES ALSO CERTIFIES THAT, TO THE BEST OF ITS KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, NO UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE SERVES AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THESE AFFILIATED ENTITIES, NOR DOES ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE UNIVERSITY RISK ADVERSE INTEREST THROUGH SERVICE TO OR RELATIONSHIP WITH AN AFFILIATED ENTITY.

A COPY OF A STATEMENT BY THE UNIVERSITY’S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SUMMARIZING BOTH THE DIRECT UNIVERSITY SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE AFFILIATED ENTITIES TO THE UNIVERSITY COVERED IN THIS CERTIFICATION IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

AGENDA ITEM IX – REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

None
AGENDA ITEM X – REPORT OF LIASON PERSON TO CONSTITUENCIES:

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Erin, would you please give us your student report?”

Member Erin Kaliszak gives her report, “Yeah absolutely! Well, good evening everyone, as Dr. Davenport said, as we approach Thanksgiving break students have been really busy and are definitely ready for the break, so I wanted to report out on some of that.

So first a country Expo event and study abroad were held the week of November 8 through November 12 in conjunction with the celebration of International Education Week. International students were able to showcase their home countries at the Expo and students were also able to explore the various study abroad opportunities that are available to them through West Chester University.

Next, the first generation college students day was Monday, November 8 and with approximately 30% of our student population being a first generation college student, the University celebrated with free T-shirts, pictures by the Ram statue, Bingo, scavenger hunts, and so much more.

And next I also just wanted to report out that I was actually able to set up a Zoom meeting with all of the PASSHE Student Trustees to kind of facilitate some more conversation between students PASSHE wide. So, the meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday, October 27 from 7pm to 8pm. And at the meeting we were able to just network, discuss the structure of the Student Trustee position at each of the institutions, because they are slightly different, and we were able to give some campus updates, and we were able to brainstorm some collective initiatives that we can have in order to formalize our relationship a little bit more. We’ve already started taking action towards
this by setting up a collaborative Microsoft Teams, so that we can start communicating more. But prior to graduating and leaving this position, my hope is to structure the PASSHE Student Trustee relationship into a formal committee, very similar to the Board of Student Government President that is PASSHE wide.

And finally, as we look towards the future I will actually be graduating in May of 2022 so I’m working on finding my successor as Student Trustee. I’m working with Dr. Sara Hinkle, the Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services and Special Projects to get together a search committee, which will include APSCUF representatives, AFSCME representatives, faculty representatives, and student representatives. Our tentative timeline is in the works, and we are looking to get applications out before the end of November. We’re hoping to conduct interviews over winter break and then select someone by early February so that there’s enough time to get the paperwork through, as well as get the approval from the Governor’s office. And from there, I’m hoping that the student will have the opportunity to shadow me a little bit, I’ll be able to do some onboarding and training for them. So, I’m really looking forward to finding the next Student Trustee for you all to work with, and with that that’s the end of my report.”

Chairperson Tomlinson thanks Member Kaliszak for her report.

Vice Chairperson Dozor, “Erin, you will be very very hard to replace and certainly you’ve been absolutely fantastic.”

Member Kaliszak thanks the members and gives her appreciation.
AGENDA ITEM XI – OLD BUSINESS:

None

AGENDA ITEM XII – NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairperson Dozor inquires as to the feasibility of continuing in person COT meetings come January.

President Fiorentino brings up the masking and if everyone is prepared to attend meetings being masked. He mentions this is something for the COT Members to consider and decide.

Agreement that further discussions with the President and Staff will take place after the meeting and consider alternate space where this can be accomplished.

AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Now this ends the Council trustees meeting, thank you for joining us, I want to extend everyone the best wishes for good health and a safe and pleasant thanksgiving and and the holiday season, I now ask for a motion to adjourn move on.”
MOTION (DOZOR/IRELAND)

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:29 P.M.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marian Moskowitz

Marian Moskowitz