

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VOLUME 222

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The President's Report was given in the Boardroom of The Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, Pennsylvania, at 8:35 a.m. on September 9, 2005.

The following Trustees were present: Baldwin (chair), Broadhurst (vice chair), Alexander, Brosius, Chaiken, J. Conti, DiBerardinis, Eckel, Foulke, Garban, Hayes, Henning, Hintz, Huber, Junker, Metzgar, Myers, Peechatka, Poprik, Riley, Rowell, Shaffer, Spanier, Strumpf, Suhey, and Zahorchak; Trustees Emeriti Fredman, Huck, Robinson, Wise, B. Wolff, Wood, and Zemprelli.

Present by invitation were faculty representatives Floros and Myers; student representatives Adams, Borawski, and Streaker; staff members Ammerman, Bowen, DiEugenio, Dolbin, Erickson, Jacobs, Jones, Kirch, Kirsch, MacCarthy, Pell, Romano, Schultz, Steele, Triponey, and Weidemann; and Mr. Courtney of McQuaide Blasko.

Chair Baldwin welcomed new trustee Acting Secretary of Education Gerald "Jerry" Zahorchak, appointed by Governor Ed Rendell to replace Francis Barnes; University Faculty Senate Officers Dr. Jamie Myers, Associate Professor of Education, Dr. Joanna Floros, Evan Pugh Professor of Cellular and Molecular Physiology, Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology; student representatives Luke Adams, Brian Borawski, and Kathleen Streaker; chair of the Academic Leadership Council Bob Steele, Administrative Fellows Michael Adewumi, Bruce Ellis, and Martha Jordan; and new board office staff members Sue Witherite and Barbara Stine.

#### President's Report

Dr. Spanier's report is included in its entirety [a visual presentation was given]:

"Good morning. Since I will be giving my State-of-the-University Address later today, I am going to provide a somewhat abbreviated Board report this morning, in the hope that it might afford a bit more time for questions.

"The news out of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast continues to dominate our country's attention, and the reach of this tragedy has touched Penn State in many ways. We have more than 60 currently enrolled students whose families' homes were in the storm's path. Some of them have been dramatically impacted by the hurricane and flooding. We have 20 students who have been called to National Guard duty to help in the response to Katrina. The Penn State family has united in response, and I am gratified that tens of thousands of our students, faculty, staff, and friends have contributed money, goods, and time to help those who have seen their lives upended by this horrible calamity. In fact, at last week's football game, nearly \$60,000 was collected to help the victims of Katrina, and volunteers will be collecting again tomorrow at the Cincinnati game and next week when we play Central Michigan.

"We have contacted our currently enrolled students affected by the storm and are working diligently to ensure that none of them will have to sacrifice their education because of lost family resources. We have also made sure that they are aware of the assistance available to them through our Counseling and Psychological Services offices.

"Similarly, as we did with the call-up of reserve and guard units for the Iraq war, we are making sure that Penn State students called to duty will be able to assume their military responsibilities and return to school in a seamless fashion.

"I can also report to you that Penn State was a leader nationally in working to accommodate students who had enrolled at universities in New Orleans that have had to indefinitely shut down because of the storm's damage. We have had several hundred inquiries to our admissions office from students at the University of New Orleans, Tulane,

Dillard, Xavier and other schools from the area, and we will make every effort to accommodate those students who are looking for a temporary place to continue their studies. The cutoff is today at 5 p.m., since we are two weeks into the semester, so we won't have a final count until then, but it appears that the total number of students we will assist from the hurricane area--both undergraduate and graduate--will approach 100.

"While our official enrollment figures for this fall will not be available until next month, I can report to you that we have had the second best year in Penn State history in terms of applications--about 84,000. This is an increase of about 1,800 over last year. We have a large freshman class of approximately 6,700 students at University Park, and significantly we have experienced a 1.2% increase in our yield rate, which shows that students are more inclined to make Penn State their first choice among colleges that have accepted them. At the same time, we anticipate that our enrollments will actually be down due in part to an important phenomenon that has emerged in the last two years--namely, an increase in the number of students graduating in four years. With more students graduating on schedule, this will in the future free up more spaces for incoming freshmen. Of course, we continue to be challenged by enrollments at some of our smaller campuses, where demographic forces are working against us. And our high level of tuition is difficult for prospective students and their families.

"With weather so much in the news the past few weeks, it is worth noting that Penn State has been selected to be the site of one of four regional climate centers being established by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Institute for Climatic Change Research. The focus of the new center will be on how energy production and use influences climate and environment.

"Some of the DOE's highest priorities include experimentally investigating the effects of warming, altered precipitation, elevated carbon dioxide concentration, elevated ozone on terrestrial ecosystems, developing and evaluating models to predict the effects of climate change on regional terrestrial ecosystems and analyzing observations of the exchange of carbon and energy between ecosystems and the atmosphere to improve global climate and carbon cycle models.

"The Penn State center will be led by Dr. Kenneth Davis, associate professor for meteorology, with Dr. David Eissenstat, professor of wood plant physiology as associate director.

"As part of our focus on the life sciences, this past spring, I charged Darrell Kirch, our Senior Vice President of Health Affairs, to convene a team of leaders across the University to assess our health sciences portfolio. The Health Sciences 2020 Team is looking across all three of our missions and will recommend actions to position Penn State to lead the nation in meeting emerging challenges in the life sciences. There currently are 48 unique associate, baccalaureate, graduate or certificate programs in health sciences at Penn State, serving more than 3,200 students.

"In the process of reviewing our strengths and identifying factors that will carry us even further in the future, the 2020 Team is seeking input from the University community. Through this feedback, the team has been hearing two general responses: first, excitement at the opportunity to build on our strengths in a very focused and resource-wise manner; and second, concern about finding the right models to overcome the geographic separation that divides some of our health sciences programs and initiatives.

"The team will continue to solicit and evaluate input. Team members are also analyzing information from the National Institutes of Health to examine funding awards made to Penn State in the past and determine which colleges were successful in achieving this funding.

"One of the sure signs of fall is the flurry of publications that offer rankings of colleges. While Penn State always ranks in the top tier in *U.S. News*, its criteria are the most debated, because in the final analysis their results are heavily weighted by the university's

wealth, with the best endowed private schools, regardless of other important factors, always dominating the top 25 spots.

"But lately, other publications have been looking at different ways to evaluate universities, and one recent guide set out to determine which universities most benefit the nation as a whole, with their rankings based on how universities serve as engines of social mobility; as producers of academic minds and scientific research that advance knowledge and drive economic growth; and as forces to inculcate and encourage an ethic of service.

"In that survey, done by *Washington Monthly*, Penn State ranks sixth out of 200 national universities. *Washington Monthly* described it this way: 'These are institutions, after all, that produce most of the country's cutting-edge scientific research and are therefore indirectly responsible for much of our national wealth and prosperity. They are the path to the American dream, the surest route for hard-working poor kids to achieve a better life in a changing economy. And they shape, in profound and subtle ways, students' ideas about American society and their place in it.'

"While Penn State generally does well in all the ranking guides, this one struck me as being particularly important, because it speaks so centrally to the real mission of a Land-Grant university like Penn State, with a commitment to integrating all the components of teaching, research and service, and providing broad access to the personal enrichment of higher education and the social mobility which that can fuel.

"One of the things that we regularly do at our Board meetings is provide you with photo updates of our building projects. But one thing that we have not done is give you a sense of all the improvements that have also come about over the past year in the landscaping and overall appearance of our campuses. So I would like to now share with you a quick slide presentation of some of the many aesthetic improvements to our grounds that have greatly enriched the look and feel of our campuses. It is an aspect of Penn State's improvement of which I am especially proud.

"I'd like to read an excerpt from just one of many emails I've received. I will protect the sender's name, since it was a private note, but I can tell you that he is one of our most distinguished faculty, and he said: 'Alright, I'm beaten. I am by now one of the longer-standing faculty at PSU--since 1980--and have often moaned and whined about the place being an eternal construction site. Now, I have to concede defeat. The new developments look terrific. The plaza outside the Life Sciences building; and now the stretch along the back of Old Main and Schwab, giving the vista from the IT building all the way across campus. Taken together, the campus now has a vastly greater sense of unity and dignity, and a real center, instead of the straggling congeries of random buildings it has always been. Also, many congenial gathering places to sit and contemplate. All credit to your vision. There, now I've said it. Now, when do we rebuild the old Armory?'

"The first slides we want to present show a few examples of new campus landscapes at University Park which I'm sure most of you have seen. I'm beginning with them because they have set the new standard of quality for our most recent projects.

"The 'Gateway to the Sciences' and Shortlidge Mall recently won a national award for excellence in planning and design. This new pedestrian-only landscape has become one of the most popular destinations on campus. The wide variety of outdoor gathering spaces is surrounded by new trees, new lighting, and lots of new seating areas designed to comfortably accommodate large and small groups. To commemorate the University's 150th birthday, the granite seatwall around the large lawn in the center of the space is engraved with the colleges at University Park that confer degrees.

"Eastview Terrace has already become one of our most sought-after student residence halls. Its landscape has improved our town-gown edge and has created a dramatic new gateway to campus. While the central stairway has become its signature, the well-landscaped central quad, walkways, and courtyards are among its most valued assets.

"HUB Plaza, which functions as an extension of the HUB itself, is always packed with students. Its central location, fountain, and benches have produced one of the most popular and memorable outdoor gathering spaces on campus.

"The gardens at the Hintz Family Alumni Center are among the most recognized and appreciated spaces on campus. Private philanthropy provided the opportunity to create this landscape oasis that includes a pond and commemorative bridge, as well as this secluded circular sitting area, and limestone seat wall that frames the historic vista between University House and Old Main. Many wedding pictures are taken in these gardens.

"Now, here are a few examples of the newest landscape improvements which you may not have had the chance to see complete.

"The need to upgrade utilities under Pollock Road provided the opportunity to improve this busy corridor through the heart of campus. I am happy to report that this project is complete. From the intersection at Borrowes to its intersection with Shortlidge, Pollock Road has been transformed into a unified and distinguished campus core that now emphasizes the pedestrian. The width of the roadway has been reduced. Brick sidewalks, brick crosswalks, and lighting have been added throughout. The many new benches and trees that now line the street add a comfortable pedestrian scale to the environment. Brick markers with granite thresholds signal the crossing at Pattee Mall.

"Willard Plaza was also just completed, with support from the Class Gift of 2004. As you can see, it is already a popular gathering space for students. The design includes a well-landscaped terrace adjacent to Pattee Mall, as well as a large granite bench with a back which is the centerpiece of this new plaza on Pollock Road. What is not visible here is the wireless internet access that allows students to do their homework while enjoying the space.

"The new landscape frames and emphasizes the approach and main entrance to the Stuckeman Family Building, which is the new home for the Departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The numerous stone seat walls and native plants complement Hort Woods.

"Private philanthropy provided the opportunity to create two new gardens adjacent to Atherton Hall. This contemplative landscape includes a terrace surrounded by a circular limestone wall, and a path that meanders through mature trees and new plantings. The new terrace in front of Atherton Hall includes two seating areas overlooking College Avenue.

"Of course, University Park is not the only campus where significant improvements are being made to the campus landscape. Here are a few examples from other campuses.

"This new entrance to the Delaware County campus and parking improvements include new landscaping, lighting, and flagpoles.

"Two new campus signs and new landscaping enhance the main entrances to the DuBois campus.

"The recently completed Senate Hall at the Erie campus significantly improves pedestrian circulation on campus and frames a new landscaped green space within the housing complex.

"At the Beaver campus, a new multi-level outdoor plaza provides a gathering space for students adjacent to the new Administration Building and the Study Learning Center. In addition, the main entrance to campus has been reconfigured and landscaped, including this new Lion Shrine.

"A new landscaping, campus green, and Lion Shrine reinforce the new Buck Union and Main Building as the heart of campus.

"The nearly complete Butler Building at the Hazelton campus includes a new multi-level entrance plaza and seat walls adjacent to the central pedestrian mall.

"The new fountain and landscaped plaza in front of the new Multi-Purpose Building at the Fayette campus is a dramatic focal point during the day and at night.

"A presentation about improvements to the campus landscape would not be complete without recognizing the value of the existing trees and flowers.

"At University Park, our landscape crews plant about 30,000 annuals a year in approximately 70 in-ground locations and 300 planters to add seasonal color to the campus landscape. In 2004, they planted almost 20,000 daffodil bulbs on the lower Old Main lawn. In addition, the number of trees on this campus has increased from 11,075 trees in 1994 to 12,838 trees in the past year. In other words, there are 1,763 more trees on this campus today than there were 10 years ago.

"Many changes have occurred since this photo was taken in the 1930's when the elms were planted in front of Old Main. While many campuses have lost their elms to Dutch elm disease, our tree experts have successfully maintained about 300 of our elms to date.

"In closing, I'd like to first mention that the Borough of State College praised our accomplishments with the 2005 Ingrid P. Holtzman Award for improving the appearance of the Borough. Now, I'd like to recognize some the staff responsible for the design, management, and maintenance of the campus landscape.

"I will ask you to hold your applause until I have been able to introduce them all. We have with us today:

"Jeff Dice, who supervises the daily maintenance and installation of new plantings throughout the western half of the campus. Jeff is also our arborist and tree expert.

"Ron Eckenroth supervises the daily maintenance and installation of new plantings throughout the eastern half of the campus. Ron is also our turf grass expert.

"Steve Grenoble is a landscape crew chief responsible for areas such as the Schreyer House, Alumni Center, and The Nittany Lion Inn.

"Terry Brungart is also a landscape crew chief. He is responsible for areas such as HUB Plaza, Eastview Terrace, and the new gardens adjacent to Atherton Hall.

"Laura Maney is responsible for all of the flowers throughout campus, including the installation of the daffodils in front of Old Main.

"Kris Edsen is the Lead Arborist, and is responsible for the maintenance of all the trees on campus, with special focus on the 300 amazing elms.

"Tom Flynn is a landscape architect whose responsibilities include planting design, selection of plant materials, and oversight of landscape construction.

"Derek Kalp is a landscape designer, whose portfolio includes the design of the new gardens at the Alumni Center and the new gardens adjacent to Atherton Hall.

"Judy Larkin is the project manager in charge of the Pollock Road Improvements Project.

"Gordon Turow is Director of Campus Planning & Design.

"Let's give them all a round of applause for the great work that they and their colleagues have done to enhance the beauty of our campuses.

That concludes my report, we have fifteen minutes now for questions."

President Spanier received comments concerning:

- The improvement and the ambience of the landscaping on campus; and
- The quick response to the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and the assistance offered to Pennsylvania and other students.