

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019
108 EAGLE COMMONS
CLARION, PA 16214
PUBLIC MEETING
7:00 P.M.**

I. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

Chairwoman JD Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the following Trustees present:

Mrs. Milissa Steiner Bauer, Vice Chairwoman
Mrs. Sue Burns
Ms. JD Dunbar, Chairwoman
Mr. James Kifer, Secretary
The Honorable Donna Oberlander
Mr. Larry Pickett
Mr. Howard Shreckengost
Mr. Tree Zuzzio

The following Trustees were absent:

The Honorable R. Lee James
Mr. Neil Weaver

The following members of the University administration attended the meeting:

Dr. Jeff Allen, Dean, Health and Human Services
Mr. Len Cullo, Vice President, Finance and Administration
Mr. David Dollins, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management
Dr. Pam Gent, Interim Provost and Academic Vice President
Dr. Susanne Fenske, Vice President, Student Affairs
Dr. Phillip Frese, Dean, College of Business and Information Sciences
Mr. Jim Geiger, Vice President, University Advancement
Dr. Steve Harris, Interim Dean, College of Arts, Education and Sciences

The following University administration was absent:

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson

Chairwoman Dunbar asked Captain Hamid Conteh and Cadets Celeste Pearce and Eric LaFrance to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The cadets then shared with the trustees their Clarion University and ROTC experience.

She in turn called upon Dr. Susanne Fenske who introduced the Civic Engagement Scholars Haley Link and Mykenzie Hoffman who were at tonight's meeting and Megan Campano who joined the trustees at the dinner prior the meeting. The students spoke of their involvement in community service, program development, and personal plan.

Jim Geiger introduced University Alumni Board members Al and Jan Lander who spoke to the trustees on their commitment to providing meaningful service to non-profit and public sector entities with the greater Clarion community.

II. MEMORIAL FOR DR. SYED ALI-ZAIDI

Trustee Oberlander presented the Resolution of Appreciation in honor of Dr. Syed Ali-Zaidi.

WHEREAS, Dr. Syed R. Ali-Zaidi honorably served Clarion State College and Clarion University of Pennsylvania as a member of its Council of Trustees from January 1980 to December 2019; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi during his thirty-nine years on Council, (a Commonwealth record and legacy) he served leadership roles as a Council officer and representative. In addition, he served as a member of the Council's Facilities Committee, Finance Committee, Naming Committee, Presidential Leadership Review Committee, and Foundation Representative; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi, understood the connection between inspiration and achievement, in 2001 established the Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence, which annually recognizes an outstanding State System graduate; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi, was a founding member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors, serving from 1984 to 1988 and from 1997 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi, chaired the Board's Task-Force on Science and Advanced Technology Education, Workforce Development, and Implementation Research Committees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi was the recipient of the Pennsylvania State System's 2002 Eberly Award for Volunteerism for his efforts on behalf of the State System as a whole.

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi advocated for the Science and Advanced Technology programs including a Nanotechnology Initiative leading to the development of new programs and advancement of workforce development in the state of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi in 2006 established with the Clarion University Foundation, Inc. an endowment in honor of his grandfather Mir Vilayat Husain to support interfaith dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi was an active participant in the life of the university, faithfully attending special events, such as Freshman Convocation, Presidential Inaugurations, and Commencement where on May 13, 2017, he was honored with the President's Medallion Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi, mentored others to be considered for trustee roles and championed the leadership of other trustees, inculcating his indomitable spirit in the pursuit of each trustee meeting by faithfully reminding us of our once allegedly impossible mission to acquire an electronic microscope, and the funding in place to maintain said microscope through sheer dogged determination that Clarion University must feature an electronic microscope! It does, due to Dr. Ali-Zaidi's unyielding tenacity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ali-Zaidi, through his unwavering loyalty and dedication to the Council of Trustees and Clarion University, had contributed to the institution, its students, and its faculty and staff; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees express their deepest reverence, laud and love of Dr. Syed R. Ali-Zaidi and his service to the Institution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made a part of the Council of Trustees minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2019, placed in the permanent archives of Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Chairwoman Dunbar invited others present at the meeting to share memories of Dr. Ali-Zaidi.

Dr. Ray Feroz read a letter from Faculty member, Tom Rourke, who noted upon visiting Dr. Ali-Zaidi often, his favorite recollections were related to his role as trustee at Clarion University. He noted that occasionally Dr. Ali-Zaidi would proudly wear his Presidential medallion.

Former President Dr. Karen Whitney spoke of Dr. Ali-Zaidi's commitment to Clarion University, especially his great love of attending commencement ceremonies, often presenting the graduate students with diplomas.

Chair Dunbar then provided summary comments and noted that Dr. Ali-Zaidi would always be with us in his legacy.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Dunbar introduced representatives of the Clarion University Foundation, Inc., Jane France, Carol Truscott and Susan Slike. Ms. France spoke to the trustees of the Board's role and activities.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the December 14, 2018, meeting minutes
2. Approval of the Capital Program Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Kifer, seconded by Mr. Shreckengost, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. REPORT OF STUDENT SENATE

Brianna Shepherd, Student Senate President, reported that they welcomed five new senators this semester. They are helping to create new student organizations on campus. They hosted Wingo last Friday with 300 students in attendance. Some upcoming events on their schedule: Reinhard Awards, President's Inauguration, Commencement, Relay for Life, and PASSHE Advocacy days in Harrisburg.

VI. REPORT OF FACULTY SENATE

Jim Lyle, Faculty Senate Chair, reported they have been discussing student affordability issues and established an Emergency Scholarship Fund for students in need that raised \$6,200 to date.

VII. REPORT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

David Dollins reported the fall 2019 enrollment data. They have 112 families registered for Saturday's Admit Day with a total of 325 people to attend. They are working on the StepUp Plan and will implement it with the True North Initiative report and recommendations. New to the enrollment program to increase communications, they are now using automatic calling service congratulatory calls to students who have been accepted. Two Admissions staff

members represent the University and disseminate information at high schools in the eastern portion of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh and Erie.

VIII. REPORT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Steve Harris recognized three of his faculty members who demonstrate high standards of excellence, Susanne Boyden, Biology; Cristin Ketley, Special Education, and Mark Franchino, Art department.

Dr. Pam Gent reported Clarion is hosting the Regional High School Robotics Competition; Aryn Beichner, senior nursing student, is ranked number 1 nursing student in the ROTC cadet corps for the northwest brigade; and Sharon Montgomery was cited in the latest edition of *Scientific American*.

IX. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Jim Geiger provided the President's report in her absence. The True North Initiative is working to get five clear strategic pieces to move the University forward. Their final report and recommendations are due April 1. Clarion received local media coverage for their pet-friendly housing option. On February 8, more than half (174) students received scholar-athlete accolades at the annual Bob Carlson Scholar-Athletic Luncheon by earning a GPA of 3.2 or higher. The U.S. News & World Report ranked five of our academic programs among the best in the world: Nursing (graduate); Business, non-MBA (graduate); Bachelor's; Education (graduate); and MBA.

X. REPORT OF PACT

Chairwoman Dunbar introduced Jeff Smith, PACT president and chair, SRU Council of Trustees, who was invited to observe tonight's meeting and to participate in trustee workshops. President/Chair Smith made brief comments.

Trustee Bauer reminded trustees of the spring PACT meeting scheduled for April 11& 12 and encouraged everyone to attend. She reported on PACT activities to date.

XI. REPORT OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

No Report.

XII. REMARKS OF THE COUNCIL CHAIR

Chair Dunbar made reference to book, "Walking Each Other Home" by Ram Dass as a metaphor for Dr. Ali Zaidi's legacy and for stewardship as trustees.

Chairwoman Dunbar mentioned that a number of trustees attended the Chancellor's swearing in, the Board of Governor's meeting and the subsequent reception at the Governor's Residence. Some trustees attended the Pehrsson-in-Person where we saw a panoply of alums, alumni relations and PEC members.

XIII. REPORT OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Jim Geiger distributed to the trustees the report of private support. They hosted Pehrsson-in-Person in Cranberry Township and Erie where 220 alumni attended these events. On March 1, he and President Pehrsson will be traveling to Florida for the annual fundraising events.

XIV. REPORT OF FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES

Dr. Susanne Fenske reported the Status of Facilities Projects in Len Cullo's absence.

XV. REPORT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Susanne Fenske stated that a panel of three students presented to the trustees earlier at the workshop – Brendon Henshaw, Sam Fareri, and NyJae Carn. The living and learning communities are expanding and filling up. The trustees will be asked to vote in April on the student fees and meal plan rates.

XVI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Committee met on February 8 and a copy of the minutes were forwarded to the trustees.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

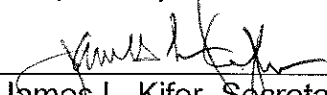
None was reported.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Zuzzio, seconded by Ms. Bauer, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The motion carried.

The next meeting of the Council of Trustees will be Thursday, April 18, 2019, on the Clarion campus.

Respectfully submitted


James L. Kifer, Secretary
Council of Trustees