

Clarion University
Council of Trustees' Regular Meeting
Room 114 Carrier & Via Zoom
Thursday, April 21 2022
7:00 p.m.

Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance

Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board Members

Public Comments

Consent Agenda Chair, JD Dunbar

1. Approval of the February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes – See Item 1

RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees, Clarion University, approve the Consent Agenda for February 17, 2022.

Old Business JD Dunbar

New Business JD Dunbar

1. Resolution of Appreciation

Report of Student Trustee Kathryn Robinson

Report of Clarion Student Senate Ryan Zavinski

Report of Multicultural Student Leadership Council Kenneth Rose

Online Global Erinn Lake

**Report of the Office of Diversity, Social Equity,
& Multicultural Education** Terrance Mitchell

Report of Academic Affairs Scott Miller

Report of Finance, Administration and Facilities Len Cullo

Report of Enrollment Management John Hynes

Report of University Advancement	Jim Geiger
Report of Faculty Senate.....	Jacqueline Knaust
Report of Student Affairs	Susanne Fenske
Report of University Athletics.....	Len Cullo
Report of the President	President Pehrsson
Report of the Board of Governors.....	Neil Weaver
Report of the Clarion University Foundation, Inc.....	Jim Kifer
Report of PACT	Milissa Steiner Bauer
Report of Council Chair.....	JD Dunbar
Committee Reports	JD Dunbar

Human Resources – See Item 2

Important Dates

- Spring Commencement – May 7, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
ROOM 248 GEMMELL
PUBLIC MEETING
7:00 P.M.**

I. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

Chairwoman, JD Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Trustees present:

Ms. Milissa Steiner Bauer, Vice Chairwoman
Mrs. Susanne Burns
Ms. JD Dunbar, Chairwoman
The Honorable Donna Oberlander
Mr. Larry Pickett
Ms. Kathryn Robinson, Student Trustee

ABSENT:

The Honorable R. Lee James
Mr. James Kifer, Secretary
Mr. Brendan Shepherd
Mr. Howard Shreckengost
Mr. Neil Weaver

The following members of the University administration attended the meeting:

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, President
Mr. Len Cullo, Vice President, Finance and Administration
Dr. Laura Delbrugge, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Susanne Fenske, Vice President, Student Affairs
Dr. Phillip Frese, Dean, College of Business and Information Sciences
Mr. James Geiger, Vice President, University Advancement
Dr. David Hartley, Associate Provost
Dr. John Hynes, Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Administration,
PennWest
Dr. Erinn Lake, Vice President, Global Online, PennWest
Dr. Scott Miller, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, PennWest
Dr. Terrance Mitchell, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, PennWest
Dr. Gwen Price, Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Services

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE.

III. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairwoman Dunbar presented the Consent Agenda and asked if any items needed removed for further discussion.

1. Approval of the February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Bauer, seconded by Trustee Oberlander, to approve the February 17, 2022 Consent Agenda.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ms. Milissa Bauer	YES
Mrs. Susanne Burns	YES
Ms. JD Dunbar	YES
Ms. Donna Oberlander	YES
Mr. Larry Pickett	YES
Ms. Kathryn Robinson	YES

The motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – NONE.

V. NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution of Appreciation for Dr. Pamela Gent.

Chairwoman Dunbar asked Trustee Pickett to read a resolution of appreciation for Dr. Pamela Gent, who retired on March 25, 2022 and in attendance at the meeting.

WHEREAS, Dr. Pamela J. Gent has had a long and respective record of professional service to Clarion University as a professor and chair of the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Sciences, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs since 1988; and,

WHEREAS, in each of her roles, Dr. Gent worked unremittingly to provide students and faculty with zenith caliber academic programs and services with a commitment to compassion, mutual trust, respect, civility, collegial shared governance, teamwork, and the general welfare of the institution; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Gent was instrumental in several key initiatives in her time as a university leader including but not limited to her active role in the True North Initiative, the Financial Sustainability Initiative, trimming of full-time positions to align with student body needs, prevention of retrenchment, faculty

development through building the CLASS Center, advancing academic affairs and student learning and retention; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Gent's, first and foremost, top priority was retaining students and ensuring students' success academically, socially, and personally by providing students with the tools and resources they need to succeed at Clarion University and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Gent, student advocate for her entire tenure, and a strong voice for all underserved populations; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Gent advocated the collaboration of staff and faculty in discovering new degree programs, new minors and certificate programs. Such collaboration of efforts resulted with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education to maintain university accreditation, development of a student success coaching model and comprehensive plan for first-year students; and,

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Dr. Gent lead the Deans' Council, Provost Council and Academic Council and served as liaison with APSCUF and Faculty Senate and with Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education for Academic Affairs. She was the designated officer for Student and Exchange Visitor Information System for F and J visas; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Gent cultivated community relationships and partnerships that led Middle States submission of substantive change for a new nursing facility in Somerset County that opened in August 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Gent made reports and presentations marked with fervor to the Council of Trustees, inspiring trustees to sit up taller, instilling an infectious allegiance to our respective roles at Clarion University and inculcating unparalleled pride to those who serve, knowing we are fortunate to have the experience of her illumination; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Gent enjoys a reputation for hard work, wisdom, kindness, fairness, honesty, can do attitude and being a strong but kind leader, she will be sorely missed; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees expresses its thunderous appreciation of Dr. Pamela Gent over her decades of distinguished service to Clarion University and extends to her our most fondly rendered wishes in her retirement; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the Council of Trustees minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2022.

2. Resolution of Appreciation for Student Trustee Kathryn Robinson.

Chairwomen Dunbar asked Trustee Bauer to read a resolution of appreciation to student trustee Robinson who has served as the last standing student trustee for Clarion University and before the PennWest Integration.

WHEREAS, Kathryn J. Robinson has been a member of the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania since April 15, 2021 and will successfully conclude her service as a member of the Council on June 30, 2022 with the transition from Clarion University to Pennsylvania Western University; and,

WHEREAS, Kathryn J. Robinson is on task to graduate on May 6, 2023 with a Bachelor of Science, Secondary Education, English & Social Studies; and we expect she will continue to represent the zenith voice of Clarion students through the Integration to Pennsylvania Western-Clarion; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson, throughout her tenure on the Council of Trustees, she consistently attended and provided vibrant contribution to trustee meetings. This was an example of her service and her inclination to contribute to the collective power of student voices and has demonstrated exponential growth during her time at Clarion, leaving a significant imprint for others to feel inclined to lead; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson recently marked memorable attendance at The Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT) in Hershey, Pennsylvania and maximized her learning experience along with other State System Student Trustees; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson achieving an admirable melding of her role as an advocate of student interests by collaborating with other students who sought this, suggesting roles in governance and encouraging students' roles in shared leadership. Nonetheless, leading "The Governance Trio" who worked together on various initiatives directing concerns and challenges of the whole institution; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to her service on the Council of Trustees, Ms. Robinson has been a committed caregiver at Clarion University implementing safe campus protocols and being trained to handle crises relative to university residents, our revered students; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson has applied extraordinary talents, integrity and thoughtful consideration in steadfast dedication to Clarion University students and outstanding leadership to campus organizations including the Clarion University Student Senate, Clarion Student Association, Clarion University Council of the Social Studies and English Club, COVID-19 Student Taskforce, Middle States Standard II working group, Community Assistant and the Campus Reopening Team; and,

RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania expresses appreciation to Kathryn J. Robinson for her loyal and effective service as a member of the Council and for her zenith volunteerism, teambuilding and leadership and stellar achievement as a student leader and extends to Ms. Robinson its very best wishes for continued success and happiness; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is fondly rendered for said Student Trustee Kathryn J. Robinson with our earnest wishes for her continued success and leadership and shall be made a formal record in the minutes of the Council of Trustees April 21, 2022.

3. Resolution of Profound Gratitude for Kristin Stiglitz.

Chairwoman Dunbar noted that in light of her retirement from the university May 20, 2022, following 35 ½ years of service, tonight's meeting would be the final Council of Trustees meeting for Ms. Kristin Stiglitz, Executive Assistant to the President and liaison to the Council of Trustees. Ms. Dunbar read a resolution of profound gratitude in honor of Ms. Stiglitz.

WHEREAS, Kristin Stiglitz has advanced the mission and agenda of Clarion University through her 35 years of inimitable service, beginning in 1986, with her passionate, calibrated commitment and steadfast advocacy as Executive Staff Assistant to the President of Clarion University;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz has provided exemplary support and leadership to the highest level of University staffing in serving three University Presidents, a few interim Presidents and has yielded zenith support to the Clarion University Council of Trustees over 35 years of service;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz has accrued a vast body of work areas across Clarion University with notable, distinguished service to: Continuing Education as Management Supervisor; to the same role in the Small Business Development Center, promoted to SBDC Coordinator Supervisor, then as Associate Director in Residence Life, and ultimately recruited to the President's Office serving Presidents Karen Whitney and Madam President Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, in all cases where all fellow employees were honored and inspired by Ms. Stiglitz' imprint as a Clarion University employee, her innate attention to detail and her devotion to athletics, both personally and professionally;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz both organized and led critical working groups with resonant imprints such as flawless Commencement ceremonies, even when forums changed over and over for pandemic protocols, enabling each graduating student and their families to have an experience of a lifetime and to impart ownership and applause over the many employees required for such a large-scale event that was masterfully orchestrated by the greatest Commencement Composer in Ms. Stiglitz;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz likewise featured lead organizational role for events that lifted others incrementally: Founder's Day, Ice Cream Socials, Employee Appreciation Events, Holiday Celebrations, scores of receptions and dedications for Clarion University trustees, multiple events for university leadership, critical exemplary events for the entire university community;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz set the highest standards of accountability, loyalty, and confidentiality for her Presidents and Trustees tantamount to her personal dedication as an athlete, her zest as a coach, a fan, and an exemplar of good health practices;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz has been a template for best practices on committees such as Governance, Advisory Councils, Presidential Searches, and as Presidential Driver, always tending to microscopic details for maximum impact. She has likewise kept the course for the True North Initiative, which became our PennWest plotting a path and for serving during periods that would test the measure of one's mettle during Pennsylvania Western's transition cycles with aplomb;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz has a rigor unsurpassed for reams of correspondence, public announcements, agendas, meeting minutes, and special assignments with an intricate focus on detail that includes what we may eat or décor for a special event, how the room will be set up, the human penchant for comfort and Ms. Stiglitz' command for starting on time and ending in timely fashion. May it also be suggested that often in service, people behave unpredictably, and Ms. Stiglitz was always aware, forgiving, and accommodating; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Stiglitz has a life's calling beckoning as Grandmother, Step-Grandmother, travel agendas and incomparable miles to bike and run, teams to coach, and calls to make as referee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Clarion University Council of Trustees hereby commends, compliments, and toasts Ms. Kristin Stiglitz for her time-honored legacy of dedication, exuberance, and irreplaceable service to Clarion University for over 35 years and wish to express our fondest wishes, indeed, our love, to Kris for an extensive and joyful retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be made a formal record in the minutes of the Clarion University Council of Trustees of April 21, 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Bauer, to approve all three resolutions noted above. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. REPORT OF STUDENT TRUSTEE

Trustee Robinson reported that she attended the PACT meeting in March with nine student trustees in attendance. They had great collaborations on campus issues. They spoke with Cody Jones on advocacy for all campuses and he's providing resources. She is serving on integration committees and helping with the BOG student interviews. She recently attended the leadership academy where Trustees Dunbar and Pickett presented.

VII. REPORT OF STUDENT SENATE

Ryan Zavinski reported that Senate recently held a town hall meeting, tabled student concerns and met with Dr. Dale on these concerns. They have been reviewing budgets and RSOs and happy to report they welcomed a new women's club basketball for new organization. They assisted with the Reinhard Awards last week and are preparing for one last Wingo before the end of the semester. Venango Senate has integrated into Clarion's Student Senate for next year and they continue to guide integration meetings. He announced he is resigning from Senate and this will be his last meeting.

VIII. REPORT OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

No Report.

IX. ONLINE GLOBAL

Dr. Erinn Lake provided the mission and value of the PennWest Global Online. They now have four individuals in the Clarion office located in the Suites on Main. Three success coaches have accepted internal transfers to Global Online.

X. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, SOCIAL EQUITY, & MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Dr. Terrance Mitchell reported that the office is hosting many events that include the sixth annual lavender graduation, veterans and military awards, and the 48th annual multicultural student recognition dinner. Amy Salsgiver is leading the train-the-trainer that will be held on Clarion campus with all three institutions participating. They are planning a retreat to be held at Edinboro.

XI. REPORT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Scott Miller reported Clarion was successful in meeting every one of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Standards and the Requirements of Affiliation with the only concern noted at the exit in the area of finances. Clarion passed the site visit on standards. They ranked 16th for best online associate degree programs by University of HQ; and, ranked 15th for best online associate degree programs in Early Childhood Education by Best Accredited Colleges. Faculty continue their work on integrating curriculum. He announced that Dr. Laura Delbrugge, Dean, Arts and Sciences, has accepted a position at another university and will be leaving Clarion at the end of the semester.

XII. REPORT OF FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES

Dr. John Hynes reviewed the facilities update with the committee. They are currently looking to relocated Carrier occupants before the upcoming demolition.

Len Cullo noted that they are working to convert fund centers for PennWest.

XIII. REPORT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Faculty David Dollins reported they continue to push for deposits for fall 2022. All current students registration dates have opened. PennWest will begin scheduling new students for the fall May 2 and continue throughout the summer. Clarion had a very successful open house on April 9, Tippin Gymnasium. Starfish Student Retention Tool will go live in May of 2022 for PennWest staff and faculty. Lastly, Josh Domitrovich, Executive Director for Career Development for PennWest, has been accepted to be a presenter at the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) in Portland, Oregon this June.

XIV. REPORT OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Jim Geiger reported marketing is pulling together new programs and strategically marketing those for each campus. The new PennWest website has been launched for new students registering for fall 2022. In fundraising, Clarion is currently down slightly in dollars but up in donors.

XV. REPORT OF FACULTY SENATE

Dr. Barry Sweet reported in Dr. Knaust's absence stating Faculty Senate approved curriculum at their last meeting and having discussions with Cal/EU to establish a new Senate for PennWest.

XVI. REPORT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Susanne Fenske reported that a Food Show was hosted in Gemmell to sample potential new offerings, summer orientation registration went live on March 11, the freshman housing application for PennWest went live on March 28, Family Day was held on campus on April 2 with 263 attendees. Families in attendance donated 500 items to the student resource room. They held the 20th Annual Reinhard Awards on April 13. The Campus rec center held the first tournament of champions with all three campuses participating in the activities. Lastly, University police work has centered around the integration of police policies for PennWest.

XVII. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Pehrsson reported that on July 1, PennWest will launch and become the second largest university in Western PA. The Clarion and Edinboro Council of Trustees will become the Clarion Council of Campus Commissioners and the Edinboro Council of Campus Commissioners on July 1, 2022. Existing Clarion and Edinboro trustees shall become commissioners for the newly formed body. Each Council of Campus Commissioners shall have 11 members (including one student) and shall have a process to fill vacancies. The Cal Council of Trustees will become the PennWest Council of trustees.

I will continue to equitably engage with the leadership of the Council of Trustees and leadership of the Councils of Campus Commissioners to ensure symmetry of information and consistent communication.

The Chancellor shall equitably engage with the leadership of the Council of Trustees and leadership of the Councils of Campus Commissioners to ensure symmetry of information and consistent communication regarding system-level matters that affect the integrated university.

On Friday, August 5, a retreat will be held at Cal U for trustees and campus commissioners. This retreat will give all our trustees and commissioners an opportunity to meet and build fellowship. It will also be an opportunity to discuss messaging, advocacy, financials, and DEI efforts for PennWest.

XVII. REPORT OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

No Report.

XVIII. REPORT OF THE CLARION UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.

Max Smith reported that \$1 million in continued pandemic support will be paid by June 30, 2022. He shared with the trustees the most recent endowment report.

XIX. REPORT OF PACT

Milissa Bauer reported she recently attended the PACT and BOG meetings. The Chancellor has recommended everyone send letters to our legislatures supporting his request for an increase in funding. They will be putting out the FAQs for the budget allotment and working together on the appropriations amount.

XX. REPORT OF COUNCIL CHAIR

Chairwomen Dunbar stated that this is Clarion University's last trustee meeting before the integration. Before we become Pennsylvania Western University – Clarion. She thanked Madam President for her admirable leadership and the Council of Trustees for dedicating their time and service. She remarked that the earliest volume where someone served at what we know today as Clarion and what we will soon know as PennWest-Clarion was from August 17, 1886. She ended with a quote in relevance to the changes with integration. The words of Leonard Cohen, "There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in."

XXI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

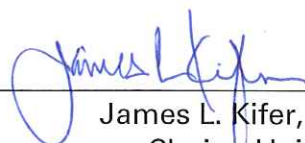
The Trustees' Executive Committee met on April 19 and those minutes have been distributed to the Council.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Robinson, and seconded by Trustee Pickett, to adjourn the last meeting of the Clarion University Council of Trustees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



James L. Kifer, Secretary
Clarion University
Council of Trustees