

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CONFERENCE CALL  
May 27, 2021  
4:08 PM**

**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: Franklin, Kaliszak, Kinsey, Moskowitz, Schick, Tomlinson.

Absent but accounted for were Members: Dozor, Fillippo, Ireland, Lewis, 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**

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/MOSKOWITZ)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2021 MEETING AS  
PRESENTED**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

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

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “At this time, we invite anyone who wishes to address the Council of Trustees to please use the raise hand feature which will put you into the queue. When it is your turn, we will announce your name and we will open up your microphone for your comment. Please limit your remarks to two minutes if you can.

No one in the queue for public comment.

**AGENDA ITEM IV – REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “At this time I have two resolutions to consider.”

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**MOTION (TOMLINSON/SHICK):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE ORDER OF SUCCESSION PLAN (ATTACHED TO THIS RESOLUTION) AS REQUIRED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS’ POLICY 1983-14-A: APPOINTING INTERIM AND ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Then the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way that we do all of our business. I have been impressed by the agility and actions of the faculty, staff, and administration at West Chester University. I would like to present the following resolution for the Council’s Consideration, Employee Recognition Resolution.”

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**MOTION (TOMLINSON/MOSKOWITZ):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY RECOGNIZES AND HONORS THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATION WHO VOLUNTEERED IN THE TWENTY-EIGHT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES CELEBRATING THE GRADUATING CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021 DURING THE MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY OF 2021.**

**THROUGH THEIR SELFLESS ACTIONS THESE INDIVIDUALS EXEMPLIFIED THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF COMMITMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS STUDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**AGENDA ITEM V – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Now we have reports from the President. I now call on President Fiorentino for his report.”

President Fiorentino begins, “Thank you Senator. Good afternoon everyone. We are delighted to be wrapping up a very difficult year. You have heard already from a number of the campus leaders and critical staff people who have talked about what this has been like and I just want to spend a couple minutes running through a few of the things and a few high point. Looking to next year a little bit, I will say this, I certainly hope this will be our last Zoom COT meeting. Hopefully, by the time we get to the fall, we will be able to get back face-to-face so, we look forward to that. Everybody can brush up on the Pledge of Allegiance again, and make sure you remember it. So Senator, I know you’re

anxious to get back to that and we are certainly prepared to support that with everything that has been happening. A couple other things. I just want to say how proud I am of the campus community, all aspects of our campus, the faculty, staff, students – we rallied to get through this year. It was just commented in the resolution that we had 28 socially distanced commencement ceremonies from April 25 through May 23. They were all in the Farrell Stadium, outdoors. Twenty-eight (28) ceremonies and no rain, it was a miracle. We came to the conclusion that the weather Gods felt that we had been through enough so we were able to get through without any problem. Boy, it was a lot of work! I do have to give a shout out to John Villella who oversaw the 28 commencements. The logistics were massive. We did have a lot of help. With great people that were here every weekend. The leadership team of the campus, Laurie Bernotsky and Jeff Osgood shared with me. We had to get through 28 of them and again, we did it! The student and their families appreciated the fact that we did it. The students from Spring of 2020 recall, we postponed their commencement, and we promised them we would get back to them eventually. And we were able to keep that promise. It took longer than any of us expected, but we had an excellent turn out and generated a lot of goodwill from the students and their families. We kept our promise and we kept the commencement. Obviously, it was a very disappointing year for all of our seniors, but they were there at commencement with their families. They were celebrating, they were looking forward to their futures, and I really, my sense was, that okay, they processed what they had been through, they finished their college degrees, and now they are moving on with their lives. It was great closure for us. Commencements are always a battery recharger for those of us who are in this line of work, but this year is one that will go down in history. We are in the process of updating history at West Chester, related to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I said to John the other day, we need to make sure that our 28 commencement 2021 season is in that history because it is certainly one for the record books. Again, thank you to all the faculty, staff, and students who participated and volunteered. It was just an incredible

effort. By the way, if you have not seen the campus over the course of this spring, it has come to like and is just spectacular. The grounds crew and all these folks did an incredible job. We have had hordes of people, students graduate, students and their families on campus getting their pictures taken in front of the sign, in front of the ram, and at the Arches. I've never seen anything like it. It's just been totally amazing.

Moving onto a few other things. I do want to pick up on something John said about the PR work and all the other great placements we are getting. In addition to what John reference in his remarks, Nancy Gainer was able to line up an extended interview for me with the Philadelphia Business Journal. Also, an in-depth podcast with KYW that is posted on their website at this point. Upcoming, I have an interview with Mainline Today magazine and these are all interviews about how West Chester has survived the last year and what our plans are for the fall, so we are getting incredible press, both TV and in the published press. It really is a credit to the people working with Nancy and Nancy herself, that they are working hard to get us out there and in the public eye. Thank you all for that.

Another kudo we received, and this has become an annual thing, The Arbor Day foundation once again has recognized us as a Tree Campus USA. This reflects the fact that we take care of our tree canopy. We have over 2,000 trees on this campus. They are beautiful, of course trees are of environmental benefit. So, they have sustainability value for the community and we had a little ceremony out in the quad the other day to plan our 2001<sup>st</sup> or whatever it is roughly, and we are delighted to sustain the effort and kudos to the committee and to Brad Flamm, our sustainability director.

A couple projects in the works, obviously the Science, Engineering Center in the Commons, the work continues. A number of us have had the opportunity to walk through. It is getting closer and closer to completion. John, perhaps we can arrange if any of the Trustees would like to walk through the facility. They

are to the point now where they are putting ceiling tiles and floor, the furniture is being moved in. So, we are on target to get this building up and operation for the fall. We expect to have an incredible celebration for that, so look forward to that. You also might notice if you have been by campus, there is fencing by the library and that is the space where our new fountain, the Roger and Agnes Plaza, where we will have the fountain put in which will be a welcoming site as we come North from 202 towards campus. Again, the fountain is going to be sustainable. It will be operated by capturing rainwater, which is assisting in meeting our runoff challenges that we have to meet in order to be sustainable. So that's a wonderful addition.

Looking forward to the fall, we are going to be back face-to-face. We have made the announcement. We are hearing better and better things about vaccinations in Chester County. I understand we are at about the 80% level for at least one vaccination. The County has done incredible work and we have been proud to partner, as we have been able to be a site and assist in that. We want to be back in class and the restrictions are being relaxed and everybody is excited to get back to that. We are all very anxious.

We will be having our Welcome Back speech on Friday, September 17 and boy, if there's ever a time for a comeback, this is it! We have been away for a long time, we are anxious to get back, and are looking forward to that. Of course, we have the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the rollout of the 150<sup>th</sup> campaign that will be happening in the fall. It will be a very busy and exciting fall. We are looking forward to getting back to normal and I am very anxious.

A couple other quick things. The integration work at the system level is continuing. They're in the phase now where they are taking public comments and the Chancellor is doing work and getting around spreading the message and entertaining questions, answering questions, and things are moving forward. And ultimately, the board is going to vote on this at the July meeting, then things will move on from there. I am hopeful that the Board will give

approval at that point. One last thing is, I'm pleased to report that I am on a committee that involved the unions, and representatives of the Chancellor's office and the Governor's office and a face-to-face meeting has been scheduled in Harrisburg for a week from Friday and it will be my first face-to-face Harrisburg meeting since January 2020. So, I will be back on the turnpike and it has been quite a while, looking forward to that. So thank you Mr. Chairman, that is my report. And now I request the approval of Purchase Orders & Contracts for February 1 through March 31 of 2021."

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/KINSEY):**

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS AND CONTRACTS FOR  
FEBRUARY AND MARCH 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, "Will each member of the standing committee make sure that you - and present resolution. First will be Finance and Administration, Chris Franklin"

Member Franklin replies, "Thank you, the committee did meet and had a thorough examination with Todd and Ilene. We had a financial picture of the University. I feel very good about where we are despite all the challenges of the

year, and I will add my congratulations to Ilene and Todd for the really excellent work. We have two resolutions to pass, already explained by Ilene in her report.”

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES OF THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS FOR FY2021.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Franklin continues, “And the second resolution.”

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**MOTION (FRANKLIN/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEREBY APPROVES THE FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION & GENERAL (E&G) BUDGET FOR FY2022.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Member Franklin, “And that concludes my report, thank you”



Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Thank you Chris, thank you for the report. Academic and Student Affairs, Sue Schick.”

Member Schick proceeds, “Thank you Senator. Each year, the academic recognition committee makes a series of recommendations to recognize faculty in a variety of ways from the awarding of Emeritus designation, to the Trustees Achievement Award, for recognized Distinguished Scholars, and creative achievements. Before the Council are six resolutions that will require our approval in order for the President and Provost to confer the nominated faculty with respective recognition awards. The resolutions include the following, Emeritus Designation, Campus Diversity resolution, Distinguished Research Award resolution, E.Riley Holman resolution, Lindback Distinguished Teaching resolution, Trustees Achievement Award resolution. With the consent of the Council of Trustees, I move that resolutions one through six listed in the Academic and Student Affairs committee agenda be adopted.

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**MOTION (SCHICK/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA CONFERS THE DESIGNATION OF EMERITUS UPON THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED RETIRED FACULTY:**

**ROGER BARTH, NADINE BEAN, DEBRA BILL, TIM BLAIR, LYNN CARSON, DEBORAH MAHLSTEDT, MICHAEL MORAN, ANTHONY NICASTRO, PATRICIA POWELL, GEETHA RAMANATHAN, MICHAEL SAGE, THOMAS TREADWELL, DONNA USHER, ANDREA VARRICCHIO.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (SCHICK/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATES THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBER AS AN AWARDEE OF THE CAMPUS DIVERSITY AWARD: KATHERINE NORRIS.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (SCHICK/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATES THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBER AS AN AWARDEE OF THE DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD: BRANDON MITCHELL.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (SCHICK/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATES THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBER AS AN AWARDEE OF THE E.RILEY HOLMAN MEMORIAL FACULTY AWARD: CHERYL GUNTER.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (SCHICK/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATES THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBER AS AN AWARDEE OF THE LINDBACK DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD: JULIE TENNILLE.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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**MOTION (SCHICK/TOMLINSON):**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATES THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBER AS AN AWARDEE OF THE TRUSTEES' ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: JAMES MCLAUGHLIN.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Chairperson Tomlinson continues, "That concludes Academic and Student Affairs resolutions, correct?"

Member Schick replies, "That's correct, all six were bundled together."

Chairperson Tomlinson proceeds with the meeting, "University Affairs. Steve Kinsey?"

Member Kinsey, “Senator, there are no resolutions and we heard the report with John.”

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Thank you.”

**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 report from student liaison if you’re available.”

Member Erin Kaliszak gives her report, “Absolutely. Good evening everyone. With the end of the academic school year, I have only a few areas of student life to report on. First, the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement hosted its 2021 awards via the YouTube channel on Thursday, April 29. Many individuals were recognized for their nominations, but a total of 22 awards were given out to student leaders, organizations, as well as organization advisors.

Next, I wanted to report out that the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted its transition ceremony via Zoon on Wednesday, May 5 to swear in the new SGA Executive Board. We will have them come and speak at the first COT meeting next school year so you can meet them. We also were able to recognize a few honorary Senator recipients. So, I wanted to congratulate Dr. Davenport and President Fiorentino who received the award from the SGA alongside directors Jennifer and Patricia Riley. This award is given out just to recognize all the individuals who are so committed to helping students and making difficult things come to fruition and helping us, and getting us

through the school year. Additionally, the SGA hosted its Senator elections on Friday, May 7 via Zoon. We filled a total of 24 Senate seats that each represent different areas of the campus.

Also, I wanted to update you all on the Board of Governors Student Nominee search process. A new candidate was selected by West Chester University search committee and a nomination letter has been sent to the Board of Governors and the Chancellor, so we are just waiting to see who they select from all of the nominations they received from the PASSHE institutions.

Finally, I wanted to commend the entire administration on all of their efforts and hard work to offer the rollover credits, the alternative grading policy, and all of the graduations for the class of 2020 and 2021. I have heard so much positive feedback about all of it and I know that so many students are really really eager to get back on campus in the fall. As everyone said, I think we are all excited to get back to some sort of normalcy.

That is the end of my report and I wanted to thank you all for a wonderful year. I cannot wait to come back and finish my last year as student trustee next year with you all.”

Chairperson Tomlinson comments, “Thank you very much and I’m sure you will be excited to come back and actually back at a full campus activity. So we are all looking forward to that for you. Thank you very much, Erin. Great report.”

**AGENDA ITEM XI – OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**AGENDA ITEM XII – NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Before adjournment I want to say that we have been following the integration by the system. I participated and was involved in a

Zoom meeting yesterday and it seems we are in the 60-day hearing comment period and I think the Board of Governors is making every attempt they can to make sure everybody's voice is heard and everybody's opinion is heard on the integration of the system. So we should be hearing more about the public comments on that very soon. Chris, did you have anything to add to that about the integration system? I know it is moving ahead and I don't think any of us know ultimately where it is going to go but, I do know that they are being very open and transparent and trying to get as much feedback as they can."

President Fiorentino replies, " I will echo that. There's a lot of effort being done to gather questions. We just had a workshop, Marian was certainly there and they are listening, they are processing, they are processing issues being made and trying to address them. There are a lot of points of view and it is a big effort, but I think it is being handled in a very transparent way. We will all watch to see how this comes out at the July Board Meeting and where it can go beyond that.

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, "Marian, any comment?"

Member Moskowitz replies, "I have to say, in addition to what Chris said as I have been extremely impressed with the effort to make this as transparent as possible and open. I mean, as Chris referred to with th meeting we were on the other day, it keeps coming up because we are all concerned to make sure that people have an opportunity to share thoughts, suggestions, anything they have. So, I think that there is a good process happening right now and you cannot ask for more than that to make sure that everybody understands or has an opportunity to express their views."

Chairperson Tomlinson, "Thank you Marian. I too have been very very impressed with the Board of Governors and the Chancellor. Those doing that, and the thought occurs to me as I said earlier, when you go through our financials, particularly after the year that we had, I cannot imagine going through some of these other schools' financials. So, this integration initiative is extremely important. Not just for the schools that are having some difficulty, it is important for all of us. So, we are all paying very close attention and I commend the Board of Governors for doing everything they can to get everybody's voice heard and everybody's comments recorded. So, I was very impressed with that meeting yesterday that they had."

**AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Tomlinson, "Thank you for joining us and I want to extend everyone's best wishes and good health and a safe and pleasant summer. I now ask for a motion to adjourn."

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**MOTION (MOSKOWITZ/KINSEY)**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:19 P.M.**

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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Respectfully submitted,



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Marian Moskowitz