

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CONFERENCE CALL
NOVEMBER 15, 2023
5:10 PM**

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER:

Council members present were Members: Dozor, Franklin, Moskowitz, Schick, Silfa, Tomlinson, Ward

Absent but accounted for were Members: Chupka, Fillippo, Ireland, Kinsey

Chairperson Tomlinson called the meeting to order. Chairperson Tomlinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairperson Tomlinson calls for the approval of the October 19, 2023 minutes as distributed to the Council.

MOTION (DOZOR/SCHICK)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2023 MEETING AS
PRESENTED**

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Public comment, at this time is there anyone from the public who would like to step up and make any public

comment?

Mr. Lehman replies, "No one here for that, sir."

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, "Thank you. No one wishes to step up? Anyone online? Okay. Thank you."

AGENDA ITEM V – REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Tomlinson proceeds, "I only have one personal item. I apologize, President, did you get to the game this weekend?"

President Fiorentino responds, "I did."

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, "You always do and you're beating me at that. It was Coach Zwan's last game in an illustrious career at West Chester, probably one of the longest-term serving coaches we've had, and one of our winningest coaches we have. I spoke a little bit about, after our next meeting if we could invite him here and honor him here and have him presented to the entire board because it's not just the number of wins he's had, but it's the young men's lives he's influenced and personal character. Some of these football players aren't always the best character until Coach gets to all of them and puts them in the right direction. As Sue's father did a great job. Sue's father got kicked right out of the Marine Corps, and we went right into the Marine Corps. *laughter*

But anyway, he did a great job. I only got out to a couple games this year. But it was one of my favorite things to do before meetings, I tried to get out at practice and walk around and see the kids and see the work he's doing. He did a great, great job and we need to acknowledge the success he's had for the

school, and also for the kids he's come in contact with. So, we'll take care of that.

I'm also reporting the council met in executive session from 4:55 to 5:23 p.m. on October 19th, 2023 to discuss personal matters. No deliberations occurred during the session. We also met in executive session today from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. to discuss personal matters, also.

AGENDA ITEM VI – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Chairperson Tomlinson continues and calls on President Fiorentino for his report.

President Fiorentino proceeds with his report. “Thank you, Senator. And good evening, everyone. Let me start with just a comment about Bill Zwan and the game. By the way, he had his career 217 wins. And it's interesting they had a ball presented to him had that painted on there. And they anticipated that we were going to win that game against Clarion. I don't know if they have another ball.”

Chairperson Tomlinson interjects, “We were going to win that game.”

President Fiorentino continues his report, “It was a fabulous finish. We won the game. The gold box was filled with Zwan family and friends. They all poured out. It was very special. Sorry you missed it. But we will certainly have an opportunity. And Bill Zwan was a credit to this institution not only as a winning football coach but as a builder of character. If you're aware of the service activities that the football team engaged in around Thanksgiving dinner and so forth, he’s just an amazing human being and we’re going to miss him

dearly. And I had a nice chance to chat with him. He's ready to retire and the long bus trips are starting to get to his knees.”

Chairperson Tomlinson state, “He can't walk.”

President Fiorentino continues, “He's going out feeling -- I think it was a little bit of a disappointing season for him. They lost some players in transfer and so forth. But just an incredible career in West Chester. I’m very proud to have been associated with him. It's been an honor for me to work with him.”

Chairperson Tomlinson, “We couldn't walk side by side when we walked down the field because I limped this way, and he limped the other way. We were limping so bad we banged into each other.”

President Fiorentino continues with his report, “So, in other matters, I actually don't have a whole bunch of things to report. It's only been about four weeks since our last COT meeting. We have been very busy, but going through and looking at some of the things I wanted to highlight, I do want to mention that I've continued to participate as a member of the APSCUF bargaining team, the management side of the APSCUF bargaining team. We have continued to meet through September, October, and the first part of November. In fact, I spent 10 full days over that time period of bargaining up in Harrisburg and hopefully everything has been okay on the campus. But we're working our way through the issues, making progress, and hopefully a final outcome will be on the horizon shortly. But it's been a long and arduous effort to negotiate this contract. We started working formally probably around February, meeting regularly. So, we're all anxious for it to come to closure.

Other things that have gone on, we had the President's Circle Ceremony in October, an October tradition. And we honored Mike and Diane Pike, and Anita Foeman, Kathleen Boyer and her late husband Ed Boyer, and the New Century Club in West Chester, all have been outstanding supporters of the university. It's a very nice event. We have a lot of long-time support. One of the things we focus on at the Circle Ceremony is lifetime giving, consecutive years of giving, and we have this incredible group of people that are absolutely committed to the university, all come together for the Foundation. And it was a very nice event.

We also held a Faculty Senate Open Forum where the administration came together and the Faculty Senate gathered questions for us and we sit down and have an open discussion back and forth, just really great discussions. We do the same thing with students of course, but we had a great bunch of questions provided to us and it really, I think helps to facilitate the spirit of shared governance that we value so much on campus.

I have just a little tidbit I wanted to share. Many of you remembered Madeline Adler. And Madeline visited campus the first week of November. I had contacted her actually when I was about to announce my intent to retire. She said you know, I think I'm going to come and visit campus and visit West Chester. And she came, we hosted her for dinner at Tanglewood. She took a tour of the campus. It was actually quite a tour; I blocked out an hour and a half and toured her around myself, and three and a half hours later, I ended up being late for a meeting because she was just enjoying herself so much on the campus. And she was so thrilled to see all the things that have happened since she left and frankly, so many of the things that are the same as when she was here. It was a very special event for her, we had members of her cabinet for dinner, it was very nice. She really did enjoy herself.

We just last weekend had the scholarship breakfast for veterans and ROTC, always a great event. We are recognized as a veterans-friendly campus and

interestingly talking to Captain Frisch, he was commenting on the fact that we provide about \$42,000 of scholarships for our ROTC students, and nobody else does that. This is really amazing. And of course, the support that we had for the veterans, veterans center, and Lillian Morrison and the great work she and her team do was showcased and it really was, again, another wonderful event. A lot of parents were there supporting their students, and it's a real credit to this institution that we're so supportive of veterans and the ROTC students who are up and coming members of the military.

I wanted to comment on actually -- Zeb mentioned one of the ceremonies, I attended two ribbon cutting ceremonies this week that were really very special. One was the one related to the food pantry, and this of course is something that has been very important to us. You have been very supportive, I was thinking back to the initial ribbon cutting where we had the Holveks participate, they've been great supporters of the food pantry. And the ribbon cutting today was related to the fact that not only did we see this uptick in the use of the center, but we recognize that we also have graduate students who have food insecurity needs and the pantry closes at 4:00 PM. And a lot of the grad students come in the evening. So, they've decided to start to have an online service center. So, this was the ribbon cutting for the beginning of the online support so the graduate students could also participate in this food pantry. What's happening there is really just incredible. What this thing has blossomed into; they keep expanding into bigger spaces, adding services. We're working on this facility's master plan and I have to alert you all, we better pay attention to the amount of space that the food pantry and the related services require because it really is growing at an incredible rate. And it's supporting the success of our students, because nobody's going to be successful if you're hungry. So I am happy to report on that. The second ribbon cutting was the Global Engagement Center. Everything that relates to students traveling internationally, international students coming to West Chester. We provide passport service now. We provide space for visiting scholars, international

scholars on the campus. And one of the things I learned about during the tour yesterday was that we actually have a prayer room here. This has been an issue on the campus, having available space in Sykes. Sykes is the student union that was built for a student body of 10,000 or 12,000, and now we're 17,000 - we've outgrown the space. We've been perplexed about how we can provide the space, for the Muslim students in particular in this case, and they've made the space available in this center. So, looking at all the things, we've expanded international travel, we've addressed the risks associated with international travel. One of the big questions that I posed a few years ago to Peter Loedel who was running the center at the time, 'so if something goes wrong, somebody gets sick, somebody gets lost, whatever, what do we do? Do we know what we do with our students over there? Our students have been entrusted to us to take these international trips.' And we can now say with great pride we have contracts with organizations. There are people on the ground in all these countries and if something happens, we have the person there who can address the challenge and make sure our students are safe and get where they need to get. Again, joking about things that keep me awake at night, this is now something that also allows me to sleep in addition to Todd's great finance work. This center, facilitating opportunities for international travel and all the things related to it, it was really a great source of pride. Angela Howard, who's now running the center, has worked here for 31 years, has worked her way up to this position and doing an outstanding job running this operation. So I was very happy to use our big scissors to cut that ribbon.

A couple things on the horizon. Commencement is the 15th and 16th of December, we're looking forward to that; the West Chester Christmas Parade is on December 1st; the holiday choral concert is on December 9th, followed by the open house At Tanglewood. We're coming into this great season of wrapping up the semester and celebrating the holidays and engaging with our wonderful host community that we're a big part of, so looking forward to wrapping up the semester and enjoying the holiday season.

And with that, the purchase orders and contracts for September 1st, 2023 through October 31st are listed in the materials for your review. If there are any questions or concerns, my cabinet and I are available to discuss them with you.

If there are no questions or comments, Senator, that concludes my report.”

AGENDA ITEM VII – REPORT OF LIASON PERSON TO CONSTITUENCIES:

Chairperson Tomlinson calls for the report of Liaison Person to Constituencies.

Member Ward proceeds with her report, “es. Hello, everyone. Not too much to report on today. As we move toward Thanksgiving break, students are keeping quite busy on campus, especially getting ready for finals. However, RamTHON was held on Saturday, November 4th, from 1-7 PM in Sykes Ballrooms and over 300 people attended this event. And this event is six hours and it's no sitting, so kind of like Penn State THON but on a smaller scale. And there were various activities from free custom T-shirts, to hair tinsel, and every kind of dancing you could think about. Impactful stories were also told from CHOP Miracle Network children and their families, which was also a special appearance that happened, throughout the duration of the event. There are currently 23 students who currently serve on the executive team that plans, runs, and manages the organization. RamTHON is a program under the Children's Miracle Network dance marathon and their donations go to the local children's hospital. This year RamTHON was able to raise over \$41,000 in donations that was able to be donated to CHOP. And this was a 35% increase from their donation total from the prior year. 100% of their donations are going directly to the child life department at CHOP as well. And as if how much they raised wasn't impressive enough, RamTHON President and student Samantha Rudner was also the number 8 top fundraiser across the United States on Child Health Day run by the Children’s Miracle Network. That's very impressive for them.

Finally, as we look forward to the future, I will be graduating in May 2024. So I'm working on finding my successor for the next student trustee. And I'm currently working with Dr. Sarah Hinkle, the Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services, to get together a search committee which will include university staff, faculty, and students including myself and the Student Government Association Vice President. The application went live via campus-wide email on Monday, November 13th and the application deadline right now is set to be December 3rd at 11:59 p.m. Our plan, tentatively, is to conduct interviews over winter break and select someone by early February just to give enough time for paperwork and approval from the governor's office. And this will then give my successor time to shadow me over the course of the spring 2024 semester and give me some time to do training and onboarding for the next student trustee.

That concludes my report.”

Chairperson Tomlinson thanks Member Ward for her report.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:

None.

AGENDA ITEM IX – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Tomlinson continues with the meeting, “Okay. Now would a member of each committee report the committee has met, provide a summary of your committee meeting, and present any resolutions for consideration, and of course we have finance administration, Chris Franklin.

Member Franklin proceeds with his report, “We met and you've all heard the presentation by Michael. Listen, it was glowing on management's -- it's nice to be part of an organization where you have clean financials and a competent

leading team. You can see it in every meeting we're with Todd and his team and it reflected so well in the audit. And we're very proud of the results.

With that, I'm going to read a resolution to accept those audited financial statements.”

MOTION (FRANKLIN/DOZOR)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES ACCEPTS THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022 AS PRESENTED TO THE FULL COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES ON NOVEMBER 15, 2023.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Thank you, Chris, for your work on that.

Academic and Student Affairs resolutions?

Member Schick, “We have no resolutions.”

Chairperson Tomlinson proceeds with meeting, “University Affairs, University Advancement & External Affairs, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. No resolutions.

AGENDA ITEM X – REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Next, before I turn the agenda items over to Mr. Franklin for background and introduction of a motion, I want to take a minute to pause.

First, before we consider the council's recommendation for our 16th president, I want to say how grateful we are to be led by President Fiorentino. His tenure at West Chester is nothing short of remarkable and his leadership has been second to none. While we honor Chris and Sue during the Spring 2024, Chris remains at the helm until June 30th. Chris, we are grateful for this. I want to give Chris a round of applause. How you kept me in line, I don't know.

Second item, we'll let Chris Franklin go through the process with us that was employed for Dr. Bernotsky. And it has been robust for the council's effort. The search committee that has assembled has made it a yeoman's effort and I want to thank those members of the search committee and recognize them for their dedication and effort, and of course council and university owes a great debt of a gratitude to the committee: Jon Ireland, Sue Schick, and of course Chris Franklin. Chris, I'll turn it over to you now.

Member Franklin takes the floor, “Thanks, Tommy. This was a very inclusive process. We've talked about it at length and the experience with the search committee. I see Kristen back there among many others who served faithfully on that committee and we had great attendance, great engagement. We talked to literally hundreds of people on this campus as we thought about who the next president of this university should be. And we began with the development of a profile of the next president. So, it was a lot of work, even before we started doing interviews and taking feedback. It was a good process. It was a compressed process because basically it took most of the fall here. But the charge to the committee was very clear from the Council of Trustees, to vet a single candidate. And we did that. And I think my opinion is broadly shared, but Dr. Bernotsky did a beautiful job answering the questions and reflecting on

her experience and providing the best answers she could; and where she couldn't answer, she said she'd get back to us. And she'd been gone from the campus for about a year and a half, she was very honest about that, that she'd been gone for a while and needs to absorb the changes. But all in all, throughout the process, I think the search committee, and we voted unanimously to support the candidacy of Dr. Bernotsky, all in all it was a transparent and inclusive process. We're very proud of that process. I was very proud to lead it with Sue and Jon. And so, unless there are questions, I'll offer our recommendation.”

Chairperson Tomlinson comments, “Thank you. I'd also like to say that Jon Ireland couldn't be here today but he's fully supportive of and worked vigorously with the committee and is supportive of the committee's support and his vote is for that.”

MOTION (FRANKLIN/SCHICK)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY ENDORSES THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENT OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY TO THE CHANCELLOR, DANIEL GREENSTEIN, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACCORDING TO PASSHE POLICY 1983-13-A AND PROCEDURES STANDARD NUMBER 2021-50, DR. LORRAINE BERNOTSKY.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Vice Chairperson Dozor emphasizes, “The record should reflect the unanimous explanation works.”

Chairperson Tomlinson confirms, “Yep, from the Council.”

Member Franklin continues, “And Tommy, you said it at the beginning, but there was a lot of tutelage by our current president. And so, I think part of the reason Laurie is successful is Chris, the good work you've done with her. Congratulations. I always think it's a sign of a great leader when you can have a successor internally to take the place. So, congratulations.”

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Absolutely. Any other comments from members on this?”

Member Schick comments, “Everything that Chris said so perfectly, it was very inclusive. It was humbling, Laurie was just a spectacular candidate in her humility and willingness to lean into all her expertise and experiences but also to be open to the university that she now faces. Really outstanding job.”

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Yep, she's been part of the team here for a long time and I was not anxious to let the Chancellor take her away from us, and I told him so. But we agreed, or I agreed, and of course she was anyway, but I said she's coming back, she better be back. And she did an outstanding job, by the way out there, I guess you'd say right-size, reorganize, learn a few things about how to manage some of the things they have and haven't and not all academic people are great managers, but she is. So, she did a great job on that.

But we're going to be glad to have her back. Chris, we've been very proud to serve with you. And thank you for tolerating us.”

AGENDA ITEM XI – OLD BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM XII – NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairperson Dozor brings new business forth, “We do need to acknowledge and I want to congratulate our very own Marian, for her election. Chester County is blessed and very fortunate to have you. And we're just as fortunate to have you as a Trustee. Everything you do, you do so well, and we really appreciate you. So, we want to note that in the minutes.”

Member Franklin responds, “And your Honor, we should congratulate you and your retention. That was a big win and good for the county as well.”

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Congratulations. And that concludes all our old, new, and special reports.

President Fiorentino comments, “Senator, I’d like to offer if the council will be interested in executive session to discuss recent events on campus around the Palestinian circumstances, I’d be happy to.”

Chairperson Tomlinson replies, “Thank you, after we adjourn, we'd be glad to go into executive session.”

AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Tomlinson comments, “his does conclude our trustee meeting. Thank you for joining us. I want to extend everyone best wishes for an upcoming holiday and season. We'll see everyone back here again in March. You get a big break. March 28th, 2024.

I now ask for a motion to adjourn.”

MOTION (SCHICK/FRANKLIN)

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:07 P.M.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marian Moskowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "M" and "W".

Marian Moskowitz