

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CONFERENCE CALL
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023
4:31pm**

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER:

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

Absent but accounted for were Members: 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 May 17, 2023 minutes as distributed to the Council.

MOTION (DOZOR/SILFA)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2023 MEETING AS
PRESENTED**

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, "Please come to the microphone if you have anything to say. Is there anyone from the audience that would like to come make any comment to the board?"

Seeing none, thank you.

And Margaret is not here either. Okay."

AGENDA ITEM V – REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Tomlinson proceeds, "I'm reporting out that we met in Executive Session on Monday, July 24th, from 4:30 – 5:30 PM to discuss personal matters, but also like to report out we met in Executive Session immediately before this meeting beginning at 4 PM to discuss personal and legal matters, and we will meet in a workshop immediately after the meeting. However, no deliberations will occur.

I'd just like to make one small comment, that we lost a great faculty member in Phil Donley. Phil Donnelly was an athletic trainer here. Started a great athletic program and then also onto physical therapy, taking care of the general population. But it's amazing. Sue, you were much too young to remember any of this, but, Phil Donnelly and the coaches at the time, whose dad and my head coach, they literally changed the athletic role for us.

Our practice would be over three (3) hours long. We'd be out in the middle of the summer, in equipment and just working and working and working, and Phil and the coaches at the time cut practice into an hour and a half. They actually let us have water. We were never allowed to have water, which I mean, I don't know they weren't very well educated at the time, but anyway, just to have water, they made us do drills for 15 minutes to get the water, so they didn't make it easy. But anyway, Phil Donley went on to have a great career as a as not only an athletic trainer, but a physical therapist. And when I think about how many lives he touched and how many people, not only did he just take the ankles and take care of the injury, but he made us healthier and he

made it possible to have less injuries because we were in better shape, better conditioning. Before we got there they weren't even lifting weights to get stronger and get in better shape and do things like that. So, I just wanted to mention that Phil Donley had a great impact. And I can't even begin to imagine how many students, and not only when he was just an athletic trainer, but when he went on. And I think they have what, over, there's over 300 physical therapy schools in the United States now. And he was the one who actually started those programs, that program and the athletic training program. So, what a great impact to students all over, not just this state, but many, many other states. So, I just wanted to bring up, that we lost a giant. We lost a great guy, just a very, very sad passing. Did anybody get to the, there was a reception? I feel so bad that I didn't get there, but I thank you very much. I heard it was like 150 some people there, and I guess Phil's son got to speak a little bit.”

Member Shick speaks up, “I have the video.”

Chairperson Tomlinson responds, “Oh do you? Wonderful, wonderful! Well, I regret that I was not close enough to get there. So, anyway, I had to bring up Phil Donley who was just a great teacher, not just a great professor, but really impacted lives beyond those that he even knew.”

Member Schick adds, “And I would also add, that was beautiful, putting West Chester on the map. He was a nationally renowned expert, truly a legend, nationally, you know. He was the sports trainer on the Olympic team when Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner had to get medical attention in order to compete, for those that are figure skating fans. And he was part of making that decision. So he's a national, just icon.”

Chairperson Tomlinson mentions, “There was a pitcher for the Phillies that he treated.”

Member Shick replies, “Yeah, he saved his career. Was it Kurt Schilling, yeah I think it was.”

Tomlinson remarks, “But yeah, he saved his career and gave him more time.”

President Fiorentino adds, “And before we leave Phil, the previous summer there was a 50th anniversary celebration of the program in Philadelphia, and Sue and I had a chance to go and be with Phil and it was just a spectacular gathering of graduates of the program from all the years. And one thing that neither of you said that I want to add, this this program was also the first program in the nation to include women. He was a pioneer in terms of women in physical therapy. And, by the way, the Kansas City Chiefs have a physical therapist who made sure that Mahomes could play in the Super Bowl, which didn't work out that well for us, but as a West Chester community, we're very proud that Kansas City Chiefs physical therapist is a woman from West Chester University. So that's wonderful.

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Thank you so much for that.

AGENDA ITEM VI – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

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

President Fiorentino proceeds with his report. “Yes, thank you very much. Good to see everybody. Just a couple of words on the start of the semester. We’re off to a great, exciting start. Of course, we've been dealing with an escaped prisoner that has made things a little tricky over the past week. But kudos to our police. They've not only been stepping up the patrolling of the campus, but they've been participating in search for the escaped prisoner. And as the prisoner has moved south, we've been able to adapt and relax things a little bit more. But beyond that little bit of excitement, it was a fabulous start to move in, it was outstanding. We had, if you remember last summer we had some challenges around housing and excess demand, and a few issues that surprised us. And people really figured it out this year, and I was very proud of how that was delivered. And I do have to say that we had support from the entire campus for move in. But the focus of move in is student affairs, and the quality of the work, the enthusiasm of the employees in terms of working with the incoming students, is great. I spent some time walking around talking to students, incoming students and their parents, and just great excitement. And the parents, of course, move in, it's an interesting thing, if it's your first child, it's one set of emotions, if it's your final child, it's a different set of emotions, and moving in is hard anyway. But generally, there was just, they were pleased with how it was handled by the campus and very delighted that their child is coming to West Chester University. So, Tabetha, congratulations to everyone in your division. They really pulled off a great move in.”

Chairperson Tomlinson refers to news spots for move in day.

Fiorentino mentions the Fox News spot, “...we had a live feed from Fox Philadelphia, we walked around together and interviewed people. And Nancy didn't tell me it was live until after I was off. But it was great press for us, and

as always, kudos to Nancy for getting the news media here and really showcasing the great things going on in this university. So that's all terrific.

Since we last met, I shared with all of you that this coming year will be my last year and I do want to stress a couple of things, that I do plan to be the President till June 30th of 2024, and we have a very exciting year with a lot of important things going on, and I just want to give you a little bit of a summary, and we'll talk a little more later this evening about some of these things. But some major goals, obviously the Moonshot, the work that we're doing to ensure that we're achieving our mission of access and success in terms of retention and graduation will continue vigorously. We have a dedicated team of people working on that. You'll hear a little more about that later.

One big thing that I'm glad that we're finally moving on is the Facilities Master Plan. We have been working, as you're aware, with the Borough of West Chester and West Goshen Township on the zoning overlay district and we didn't want to get into the Master Plan until that was finalized, and it was finally finalized. And we have been working, Todd and his team, has been working on securing a consulting firm, a firm called Ewing Cole is the firm that we have retained.

We interviewed several firms, and we're very pleased to be working with them. We're doing it in two (2) phases. With the initial phase, the great urgency that we have realized over the past few years is the lack of sufficient housing. We have a lot of students who want to live on the campus, so we've charged them to come back to us in a fairly short timeline to make recommendations about how we can address the housing challenge and identify how we could add 1,000 beds to this campus. We've had a consultant in here who has assured us that we could accommodate 1,000 more students. We have about 5,100 beds now, we have over 14,000 undergraduate students. So, we really do believe that adding 1,000 beds will be a good thing. We're not doing it to grow, we're

doing it to accommodate the students who are currently here who want to be on campus. That's very exciting.

Then the second phase of the Facilities Master Plan will be an overarching 10-year look into the future. How have things changed on the campus; where have we grown; where have we not grown; which programs have seemed to be shrinking; how is our world going to be impacted by remote working?

Obviously, we've had certain assumptions about utilization of office space, and now there are questions about what that will look like going forward. So, it's gonna be an exciting time. They will be leading us through the effort. But this work will really start to ramp up as a new President is coming in, and the Cabinet is preparing and ready to move on that. So that will be an excellent, and very exciting activity. I mean, there's a lot that has happened on the campus. Obviously, we're very land bound here, but we do own some ground; we own some homes along Rosedale Avenue, we own some properties back on Matlack, up on Carter Drive. So, interesting opportunities in terms of where we're going to take the campus from here. So, look forward to more on that.

In terms of strategic planning, we were working on a new strategic plan to be rolled out this fall, and with the transition of the Presidency, we decided to shorten this to a 2-year transitional plan. We need to have a roadmap over the course of this year and next year, as we transition a new President in. So, the planning process is going to be focused on that transitional process where we will have goals for this year and into the next year, and that will put the new President in a position to roll out another strategic plan in time to get acclimated in the job and then move forward from there.

One of the big things that I'll be focusing my attention on in the coming year: we are approaching the goal of the of the comprehensive campaign. We're in the vicinity of 94% of goal, the goal is 65 million. We're around 59 plus. I have the numbers, they are changing all the time, Zeb, I don't know if you have a better number than that, but it's in that vicinity. And the plan was for the goal

to be achieved actually, by May or June of 2025. We believe that we're going to be in a very good position to achieve this goal a year early. We plan to be leveraging my exit from the University after 40 years, as hopefully, a way to facilitate some gives, some scholarship endowments, and so forth, and the Foundation is working closely with Zeb on setting up a plan that we can leverage in that direction. There'd be nothing we'd love more than to leave a great legacy of scholarship support. You know, the Fund-to-Finish is one great example of something that the donors have been very supportive of, making sure that our students are getting to the finish line. So that is going to be something that is going to be a big focus of my attention in the coming year.

So, I will stop at that point if there are no questions, and I will move into a special recognition.

Are there any questions on anything before? Good?

Okay, well, this past spring, as a first-year graduate student, Ralph Casper, concluded his stellar career as a member of the Golden Rams Track and Field teams. Not only does he have tremendous athletic ability, but he also possesses strong academic and leadership skills. Ralph is the WCU record holder, in indoor shotput, outdoor shotput, discus, hammer and weight throw. While competing at the Division II Outdoor National Meet, he placed 1st in the shotput and 5th in the discus. His two Top 5 finishes earned him National First Team All-American and gave him a 22nd place finish of all teams competing in the meet. He's the first Golden Ram male to claim an Outdoor National Championship in Division II, and is the first PSAC male athlete to capture a National Championship in the shotput since 1963. This year Ralph has received a total of 22 awards: 8 PSAC awards, including Indoor and Outdoor

Field Athlete of the Meet, Field Athlete of the Year, and Indoor 1st team All PSAC of both shotput and weight throw; 9 US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association awards, including Division II Outdoor National Champion in shotput, Outdoor Atlantic Region Field Athlete of the Year, Outdoor 1st Team All American in discus and shotput, and All Region in the shotput, weight throw, and discus. Wait, I'm not finished! Five (5) academic awards, including the Philly S. IDA Overall Performer of the Year, and most recently named the Division II Men's Track and Field Outdoors Scholar Field Athlete of the Year by the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. He's the first Golden Ram to earn this prestigious honor. Ralph, congratulations!"

Chairperson Tomlinson, "Ralph, we'd like to have you up for a picture."

AGENDA ITEM VII – REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:

None.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Tomlinson continues with the meeting, "Okay, at this time we'll take up action items for the council. We're gonna take up a resolution of the Schmucker Namesake Removal. President Fiorentino, I will pass this to you to introduce the item before Council deliberates.

President Fiorentino continues, "Yes, the University has a policy on naming the facilities, and at one of our Trustees meetings at the end of last year, one of our students working with a faculty member had conducted some research and

brought to our attention - and I will say this, that this is not something that was completely unknown to us, but it has certainly been under the radar for many, many years. The fact that Samuel Schmucker, who was the namesake on the Science Center, had done extensive research in the area of Eugenics. And the student's conclusion was that the Schmucker name should be removed from the building because association with Eugenics is not something that the University should actually be involved in. As a result of that, we formed a committee, I named a committee, and asked them to investigate. This gave them the charge of researching the facts around this matter, pros and cons, as it were. The committee was comprised of West Chester University students, staff, community members, and faculty from three (3) academic colleges, Division of Student Affairs, and the West Chester University Alumni Association. And, according to the committee, the majority of the West Chester University community with whom they spoke express their adamant wishes that the Schmucker name be removed from the building. They made that recommendation to me. I engaged in deliberations with the Cabinet. I engaged in some of my own research on the matter to familiarize myself with it, and I reached the conclusion that while some argue that Schmucker was a man at his time and that matters that took place 100 years ago shouldn't be judged by modern standards, but the issue in my mind came down to Eugenics, not Samuel Schmucker. And simply put, Eugenics is inextricably linked to Samuel Schmucker and is counter to the values of West Chester University, and therefore my recommendation to the Council of Trustees is that we remove the name of Samuel Schmucker from our Science Center because of his involvement in researching and writing about Eugenics.”

Chairperson Tomlinson entertains a motion. “Do I hear any questions or discussions on that?”

Vice Chairperson Dozor comments, “Yeah, I would like to introduce the action item. But before commenting on the action item. I want to congratulate the namesake committee report. With a great deal of passion and academic discipline, the Namesake Committee Report is a very impressive, remarkable work product of applied and normative ethics philosophy, with a deep academic dive into history. It's a job very well done. I want to compliment the committee. I think it's fair to compliment also, Dr. Zeb Davenport, our own Dr. Davenport, who is present here today, who worked with the committee; the chairman, Dr. David Thomas, who, I believe, is also present; committee members, Demetrius Isaac, Dr. Martha Donkor, Carolyn Evans, Matthew Holliday, Karen Mercy, and Dr. Simon Ruchti. They put in a great deal of effort, a great deal of energy, it's a very impressive report.

May I also compliment our own students that provided a great deal of investigation and assistance to the committee, specifically a student, by name of Aaron Stoyack, and also his professor, Dr. Ruswick. who worked with the committee. They've done West Chester proud in their efforts in this regard.

The report provides an in-depth investigation, a great deal of research, interviews of a great number of people, and they explored all perspectives, all perspectives with regards to this issue. It really was a job well done.

It was balanced research of all perspectives, and the work product is a credit to West Chester University, but also to our community. It really is a very fabulous academic learning experience in itself. So, something positive came out of this exercise. Something very positive came out of this exercise and learning of the history and balancing the perspectives and in making this recommendation.

I do wish to make this motion and as to the resolution, my comment is that all our memorials and namesakes should always honor both good deeds as well as values we strive for, with no taint of racial bias or oppression, and pseudoscience of Eugenics is contrary to the values of West Chester University.

So be it be resolved that the Council of Trustees of West Chester University, hereby approves the removal of the Samuel Christian Schmucker, namesake from the West Chester University campus, including this removal from the Science Center.”

Chairperson Tomlinson, “Thank you, Judge Dozor.”

MOTION (DOZOR/SCHICK)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY HEREBY APPROVES THE REMOVAL OF THE SAMUEL CHRISTIAN SCHMUCKER NAMESAKE FROM THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY CAMPUS INCLUDING ITS REMOVAL FROM THE SCIENCE CENTER

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Chairperson Tomlinson continues, “Okay. Next is the resolution on the Search Committee and the composition of that and Andy, are you gonna get up to speak on that for us please?”

Mr. Andy Lehman comes forth and continues, “Thank you. Before you, in your packet is a motion related to the composition of the Search Committee for those individuals that are within the purview of this Council.

Pursuant to Board Policy and Board of Procedure and Standard, there are certain slots on the search committee that are filled by constituency elections or nominations outside of the President and outside of this Council however, there are those of which that this Council controls.

The first would be the appointment of Council Members, the 3 council members, one of which to be the Chair, and I believe through the materials, the slate that would be before this Council voted, would be Chris Franklin for Chairperson of the Search Committee; Sue Yoder Schick for membership on the Search Committee; and Jonathan Ireland, Mr. Ireland is not with us, but also for membership on the search committee.

For the University Executive, that is one individual who is not a representative employee, but an executive at the University. The after charged by the chair, the recommendation is Dr. Desha Williams, Dean of the College of Education and Social Work. She would be the Executive for the Council's selection. Desha not only brings great experience in Higher Ed, she is herself a faculty member who worked her way through, and is now a Dean in the College of Education & Social Work.

For the Non-Instructional Council Selection, that would be Ms. Carolyn Evans. She's in Academic Affairs, in the office of Global Engagement.

And the three (3) additional Council appointments or selections, the nominations for this Council to consider our Amah Dunor, he is our Graduate Student Association President, and he is from the Philadelphia campus. So, we are again considerate of our colleagues and students at the Philadelphia campus. Sabrina Rightmer, she's in Student Affairs. She rounds out, we did not have a student affairs selection, as well as Miss Patricia Shields. She's in administration and finance. And I believe, Dr. Osgood, did I miss any anything on the appointment?

Finally, through board policy procedure, Dr. Tracy Ray Robinson, part of our Cabinet, as you all know, is here. She's our Chief Diversity Inclusion Officer for

the policy, and she is to be appointed as an advisor to the search committee. She's a non-voting member.

And Mr. Chair, I would offer the foregoing proposed search committee members. They appear in the motion for your consideration. And I would defer to you to solicit a motion in a second. Thank you.”

MOTION (SILFA/FRANKLIN)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY APPOINT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO PASSHE POLICY 1983-13-A AND PROCEDURE/STANDARD NUMBER 2021-50:

CHRISTOPHER FRANKLIN, SUSAN YODER SCHICK, JONATHAN IRELAND, DESHA WILLIAMS, CAROLYN EVANS, AMAH DUNOR, SABRINA RIGHTMER, PATRICIA SHIELDS, TRACEY RAY ROBINSON

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Vice Chairperson Dozor continues with the next proposed resolution to vote on. “I do want to indicate that the Council of Trustees takes very seriously its responsibility for making recommendations regarding the appointment and the retention of presidents.

I know this as I've served on various search committees, as many of us have done in the past. As we have discussed the future of West Chester University, we are beyond pleased with the tremendous momentum we have gained over

the past 6 years with our President. We will miss him a great deal. He's been a remarkable, remarkable President and West Chester has been very fortunate to have had him and to be involved with our University for up to 40 years of great service, and we appreciate that! We also are very fortunate to have had the service of Dr. Lorraine, Laurie, Bernotsky, who has spent her entire career advancing students' access to success here at West Chester University. We know her to be a very competent leader, and a very, you know, exemplary individual, who is devoted to public higher education. She brings an understanding of our University in the State System that is unparalleled. With the intent of ensuring the continued success of our University, the Council have requested approval from our Chancellor to explore the candidacy of Dr. Laurie Bernotsky before deciding whether to proceed to an open national search.

Our Chancellor has notified us that the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors has concurred with his recommendation to allow us to proceed with our search and to consider Dr. Bernotsky. Given this, I move that we charge the search committee with developing a position profile that describes the knowledge, skills, the abilities and the experiences of the University in seeking its next President. Utilizing this profile, the search committee should be charged with exploring the candidacy of Dr. Bernotsky by soliciting her application materials for the position.

We also are very anxious to introduce her to the college community and to appropriately vet her among our university family. Following this work, the Search Committee should organize a comprehensive, inclusive university wide process designed to elicit the feedback of our students, our faculty our staff and alumni that will reflect the diversity of our university.

We ask that a formal recommendation on our candidate be made no later than December 1st of this year to allow enough time, should be necessary to proceed to a national search.

Thereby, I wish to move the resolution that I've read into the record.

MOTION (DOZOR/SILFA)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY, UTILZING THE WAIVER GRANTED BY THE CHANCELLOR UPON CONSULATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, CHARGES THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO PASSHE POLICY 1983-13-A AND PROCEDURE/STANDARD NUMBER 2021-50 WITH THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS: *See [Resolution](#) for instructions.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

AGENDA ITEM IX – REPORT OF LIASON PERSON TO CONSTITUENCIES:

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

Member Ward defers report until the October meeting.

AGENDA ITEM X – REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

None

AGENDA ITEM XI – OLD BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM XII – NEW BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Tomlinson comments, “This ends the Council Trustees meeting. Thank you for joining us, and I want to extend everyone best wishes for good health and a prosperous fall, and I’ll ask for a motion to adjourn.”

MOTION (CHUPKA/SCHICK)

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:06PM

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marian Moskowitz".

Marian Moskowitz