

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Penn State Worthington Scranton  
October 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. by Faculty Senate Chair, Beatriz Rivera Barnes.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved with a motion by Pat Hinchey and second by Magid Chatsaz. Suzanne Harper, Faculty Senate Secretary, asked that everyone read the minutes as soon as posted and let her know of any changes immediately. She asked that anyone who spoke from notes to give them to her for accuracy in the reporting and also asked anyone who wanted to make sure that a comment made during the meeting was included in the minutes to let her know.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor's Report

- Chancellor Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen thanked the alumni association presidents in attendance for all that they do for the campus, their loyalty, their scholarships and other activities that support the campus and the university.
- In light of the sentencing today of Jerry Sandusky, Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that if anyone was approached by the media they should refer that person to Amy Gruzesky, who would forward questions to David LaTorre (owner of the crisis communications PR firm hired by PSU to handle media inquiries and communications related to the Sandusky scandal).
- Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said she recently attended the Academic Leadership Council meeting at University Park and that many issues, some of which she did not wish to divulge at this point, arose that would have an impact on the campus and the University. She said that, according to President Erickson, the number one urgency at the moment is enrollment, which is down throughout the system. Our campus, however, is one of the campuses with the least decrease. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen noted the upcoming Open House on October 14 and asked that everyone who can to participate and to be upbeat.
- In the absence of Dr. Charles Patrick, CAO, Dr. Krogh-Jespersen thanked everyone on his behalf for getting in spring schedule requests. At some point in the near future, Dr. Patrick will be informing the campus about retention and the pre-registration process. \*
- On a positive note, Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that the campus has received the go-ahead from University Park to have a conversation with major University donors regarding donations for the renovation of our athletic building.

- Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that recently the campus has formed a Behavioral Threat Management Team that has been meeting weekly. She said that Gene Grogan would be giving a report on the team later in the meeting.
- Finally, Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that AD-39 training, which began on campus this summer, will be put in place soon for all employees.

## Committee Reports

### Diversity

Kami Merrifield, Chair, announced that on October 29 from noon until 1:00 P.M. (place to be announced) Earl Granville, a former member of the National Guard, and Sergeant Eric Darling, a current member of the Guard, will be speaking on campus. Mr. Granville is a wounded warrior, having been injured in Afghanistan on his third deployment; his twin brother, who also served in the military, committed suicide. Sergeant Darling is involved with the Master Resilience program, which aims to prevent suicide among military members. Students in Dr. Merrifield's class have applied for SGA funds to provide a lasagna luncheon and Halloween cupcakes. She invited all to attend to encourage student attendance as well.

Dr. Merrifield also announced that next Wednesday, October 17, at noon in the Sherbine Lounge, a discussion concerning the presidential election will be held. Sponsors are Honors and Faith and Values. Again, she encouraged attendance by faculty, staff and students.

## New Business

### Gene Grogan, Director of Business Services

Mr. Grogan explained the Behavioral Threat Management Team that has been on campus for the past few months, its formation charged by University Park. A BTMT has been functioning at University Park for the past two years. The Team is "committed to the safety and well-being of the University community through the education, communication, planning, assessment and management, towards the goal of mitigating behavioral threat." In other words, the Team aims to target behavior in students, faculty or other employees that is a potential threat in some way and to provide ways of dealing with problem situations before they escalate.

Current members of the campus BTMT, in addition to Mr. Grogan, Director of Business Services, are Dr. Charles Patrick, CAO; Michell Schutt, the Director of Student Activities; Matt Nied,

Assistant Director of Student Activities; Caressa Gearhart, DUS coordinator; Jill Thoman, school nurse; and a representative of campus safety and security.

Mr. Grogan said that any behavior that is perceived as potentially threatening should be reported to a member of the committee. He gave the example of a recent situation on campus where a young woman reported to Dr. Patrick that a young man in one of her classes was following her around campus, which was making her very uncomfortable. The Team met and decided the appropriate course of action was for someone to talk to the young man and inform him of the young woman's complaint. After the young man was spoken to, he said he would stop following the young woman.

Mr. Grogan said methods of dealing with a situation can range from the individual being sent to a counselor to being dismissed from the University. He said that a database has been created to record reports of problematic behavior. This is not an open access database at this point: only he and Michelle Schutt may access it. But the database provides a record of behavior that may be relevant when a student transfers to U Park or another campus.

Dale Holen asked if faculty or staff will be informed of a problem student and Gene said at this point no. Alan Peslak questioned privacy issues. Would the report be on the student's record? The answer was no, but if the case became a concern of the judicial system that would be another issue. When asked if the information on the database would be permanently on the database, Mr. Grogan said he didn't know. Kami Merrifield questioned how the entry on the database was different from an entry on the student's permanent record. Mr. Grogan said the information on the database was separate from judicial affairs issues. The database record won't follow the person.

Mr. Grogan reiterated the main purpose of reporting and tracking problematic behavior is to get help for the individual so the behavior doesn't escalate. It is an attempt to remove a threat or potential threat. When Amy Gurzesky asked if the student is informed that his/her name is going into the database, Gene said he didn't know. Linda McAndrew asked about the culpability for the University if the database is discoverable. Mr. Grogan said that any information that the University gathers or creates would be considered discoverable with reference to a court of law. The information that would be input as part of the BTMT would remain confidential to management and not to anyone else. Gene said that at this point it isn't clear how the information will be used if/when necessary and whom the information can be shared with. Amy Gruzsky asked if the reporting of errant behavior applies to faculty and other employees and the answer was yes.

### Matthew Mutchler

Matt said he had something to share related to mandatory reporting. He said that the HDFS faculty were recently at a department meeting at University Park, and the University's lawyer spoke to the group. **She** told them that if an adult student writes a paper in which he or she reveals he or she has been abused as a child, the faculty member is obligated to report it to a supervisor and to call the Child Abuse Hotline. Matt said that he doesn't believe students are aware of this policy and they should be informed of it.

### Deborah Johnson, Alumni and Development Specialist

Deb introduced the three alumni presidents who were in attendance: Mike Rescigno, former president of the Scranton Alumni Chapter, standing in for the current president, Bill Jones, who could not be present because his mother had recently passed away; Worthington Scranton Alumni Society president, Kathy Zielinski; and Maureen Beilman, president of the Wayne Pike Alumni Chapter. Before the presidents spoke, Deb commended them for all that they do to support and promote the campus and the University within the community. She pointed out that the president's job is actually like an additional full time job.

Kathy Zielinski, Worthington Scranton Alumni Society president, then addressed the senate. She noted that only alumni of our campus can belong to the Society. (A Society has to be attached to a campus unlike a Chapter, which is open to anyone who is a supporter of Penn State.) Ms Zielinski said that the Society meets in the SLC conference room the first Tuesday of every month and invited senate members to attend. Ms. Zielinski is a practicing accountant who graduated from Penn State in 1985 and now has two students studying at the Main Campus. She is ending her second term as president, and has been active in the Society for twenty-five years. She said her involvement with the campus will continue after her presidency ends.

Ms Zielinski said that the Society has contributed over \$250,000 to the campus. She then outlined many of the projects and activities the Society has sponsored or contributed to: an endowed scholarship, the Student Success Center, a breakout room in the Business Building, renovation of the nursing department, the scoreboard in the women's softball field, the Lion sculpture, a brick at University Park, the Back to School picnic, speed mentoring, the business etiquette luncheon, Alumni of the Year event, Breakfast with the Lion, PAWS for a Cause (community service), and a golf tournament. A fund-raising zumbathon will be held in the gym on November 29 from 5-7. She said that she will be attending the Alumni Council to accept two awards: one, a group award with other campuses for PSU Day at Knoebel's and an individual award for Whiteout with the Blue Man Group, which was held at the Scranton Cultural Center. In ending, Ms Zielinski asked the senate to continue to support the Society as they support us.

Maureen Beilman, president of the Wayne Pike Chapter, who is the CFO of the Dime Bank, spoke next. She said that her chapter is one of the newer ones, incorporated in 1990s. Their focus is on scholarships awarded to students in the Pocono area schools: Delaware Valley, Western Wayne, and Honesdale. They have awarded \$1000s in scholarships. There are two different types of scholarships: two scholarships are awarded based on financial need to students who will be attending University Park or any of the campuses; other scholarships are based on grades and community service. Some of their fundraising activities are a murder mystery and silent auction, a golf tournament , and a night at the races, which this year is scheduled for October 19. Ms Beilman invited senate members to attend. The chapter also hosts tailgate parties and a Christmas party and honors an alumnus of the year. They have contributed to the Lion sculpture on campus and the renovation of the nursing suite.

Mike Rescigno, president of the Scranton Chapter, said that the Scranton chapter is one of the oldest in the system, dating back to the 1970s. It is a dues-paying organization, which anyone who supports Penn State may join. It currently has between 400 and 500 members. The chapter raises money for scholarships (it currently supports three endowed scholarships) and supports campus initiatives. It also funds an annual faculty research grant. The major fundraiser is the annual dinner at which a Penn State coach is a guest. This year the chapter was lucky to have the football team's new coach, Bill O'Brien, who was amazed at the large crowd of 950 people in attendance. Mr. Rescigno said the turnout at the dinner every year shows the tremendous support in the area for Penn State. He invited everyone to join the chapter and to attend its events.

Before adjournment, Dale Holen asked how much information faculty are allowed to give to part-time athletic instructors/coaches. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen said that coaches do need feedback regarding student athlete performance in class, and so information on student performance is okay as long as it remains internal. Deb Johnson said that any questions regarding any of the alumni groups can be addressed to her.

Dale Holen moved for adjournment with a second by Janet Melnick at 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Harper, Faculty Senate Secretary