



Council of Trustees

Friday, February 21, 2025

Public Meeting Minutes

The Council of Trustees of Shippensburg University met on Friday, February 21, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Shippensburg University in the Ceddia Union Building MPR in Shippensburg, PA as well as visible through a live stream.

Attendance: Trustees Doug Harbach, George McElwee, Matthew Steck, Moriah Hathaway, Glen Grell (Zoom), Colin Arnold, Ashley Loper (Zoom), Bryan Lowe (Zoom) and President Patterson were in attendance.

Absent:

Call to Order

Chairperson Doug Harbach called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. He then led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comment.

Board Action Items

ACTION: The Published Agenda was motioned for approval by Trustee Arnold and seconded by Trustee Hathaway. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: The Meeting minutes from the November 15th, 2024, meeting was motioned for approval by Trustee Steck and seconded by Trustee Arnold. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Charles Patterson updated the trustees on several strategic initiatives, including the Middle States planning process and the self-study progress. President Patterson highlighted the efforts of the Division of Academic Affairs and staff in this process. Additionally, he discussed the PASSHE Chancellor Search, the appropriations request for a 6.5% increase in state system funding, and initiatives related to faculty retirement programs. He also mentioned updates from the Pennsylvania State System of Education including the enhanced sick leave payout to retiring faculty who submit their intent by April 11th with an effective date on or before August 22nd. Updates were given on the PA State Board of Higher Education, including composition of various committees including the transfer of authority committee, strategic planning committee, the data committee and the bylaws committee. Also discussed was the implications of a recent U.S. Department of Education letter, discussions regarding an earlier executive order regarding the implications of the federal



funding freeze and fall recruitment numbers, which would be detailed later by Megan Luft. President Patterson further discussed the Academic Affairs Budget Forum including Board of Governor's approved metrics and Ship's progress in meeting those metrics and specific initiatives under development. Trustees were updated on consultations with Unique Venues for conference services, and renovation plans for Kreiner Hall to serve as an entrepreneurship hub. He concluded his report by mentioning non-academic programs related to fundraising and campus events.

SAE Baja Team Presentation

Provost Newton introduced colleagues from the engineering department. Students from the SAE Baja team presented their project. The SAE Baja Team designs and builds an off-road buggy for competitive events. They have participated in competitions in Ohio and Michigan, gaining valuable experience along the way. Their current goal is to reduce the buggy's weight by 50% while increasing its top speed. Through this project, team members develop skills in 3D design, manufacturing, problem-solving, and networking. Looking ahead, the team plans to compete in Maryland in June with an improved design.

Engineering Capstone Project Presentation

Students from the engineering capstone class presented their project, which focused on improving the key management system in campus residence halls. They explained the current manual process and proposed a device that would use computer vision to read keys and automate the tracking process. The students outlined the challenges they faced, including precision in measuring key biddings and securely storing data. They also discussed their roles in the project, including GUI design, data handling, hardware design, and communication with external parties

Division of Administration and Finance

ACTION: Dr. Jolinda Wilson requested approval for the 2025 summer fees and 2025 refund schedule. The 2025 summer refund schedule was motioned for approval by Trustee Arnold and seconded by Trustee Hathaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jolinda Wilson provided information on purchases, contracts, and personnel actions for the period from October 30, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

Division of Enrollment Management & Marketing

Dr. Megan Luft, from the Division of Enrollment Management and Marketing, reported that Shippensburg University had exceeded its spring 2025 census goals, with a total headcount of 4,919 students, an increase of 135 students from the previous year. Dr. Luft highlighted the success of the Ship Start dual enrollment program highlighting the matriculation rate to become freshmen is at 40%. Submission of a grant request for \$1 million to support dual enrollment growth. Dr. Luft also provided updates on staffing, spring travel plans, and upcoming admissions events including hosting PASSHE Counselor information day in April.



Dr. Luft also provided an update on the Luhrs Performing Arts Center moving into the 20th anniversary of the center. Finally, Dr. Luft informed the Trustees the web site is being updated for ADA compliance.

Division of Student Affairs

Lori Sheets, Vice President and Dean of Students, reported on summer camps and conferences, which would bring over 6,100 overnight guests to campus, including 5,000 potential future students. Lorie Sheetz also mentioned a donation from Procter & Gamble and provided updates on spring housing occupancy, which was at 94%.

ACTION: Vice President Sheetz requested approval for housing rates for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. The rates were motioned for approval by Trustee Steck and seconded by Trustee Arnold. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Vice President Sheetz requested approval for dining rates for the 2025-2026 academic year. The dining rates were motioned for approval by Trustee Hathaway and seconded by Trustee McElwee. The motion passed unanimously.

APSCUF Report: Aaron Dobbs thanked Enrollment Management for their efforts to bring students to Shippensburg University and thanked Student Affairs for taking care of students on campus outside of the classroom. He thanked the library staff for helping students with their academic work, and expressed thanks to all who help students succeed. Mr. Dobbs continued to provide information about faculty at the University including that over the next seven years, two thirds of the faculty would be retirement eligible.

AFSME Report: Steve Bucher had nothing to report.

SCUPA Report: Kyle Miller expressed concerns about federal policies impacting higher education and protecting jobs and advocating for our students.

Alumni Association: Moriah Hathaway shared updates on alumni events, including a Derby party on May 3rd and alumni weekend on May 30-31. She provided the following, the S in ship stands for supporting students describing areas the Alumni Association is doing to support students from the professional clothing closet and Big Red's Cupboard. The H is to help recruit volunteers with board members serving as event hosts and the alumni office is coordinating and partnering with alumni in regional areas. The I is investing in the campus community. Examples are providing totes filled with special items for students on campus over winter break and providing items for Big Red's Cupboard. The P in Ship is providing feedback and resources to SU alumni association. Planning is occurring for Homecoming 2025. Updates on recent and upcoming alumni events.

Office of the President

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Student Government Association: Lillian Sellers provided updates on SGA activities including a bridal fundraiser, working toward passing the budget for 2025-26 academic year and upcoming officer elections. Lillian expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as SGA President but will be continuing at Shippensburg University as a graduate student.

Recognition of Former Trustee Bill Gindlesperger

The meeting concluded with a resolution honoring former trustee Bill Gindlesperger for his years of service to Shippensburg University. Chairperson Harbach praised Gindlesperger for his dedication and leadership, both on the Council of Trustees and as a member of the PASSHE Board of Governors. Gindlesperger expressed his gratitude and continued support for the university.

New Business: The next meeting was scheduled for May 16, 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 PM.

Submitted by: Drew Alosi

Reviewed:

Doug Harbach, Chair, Council of Trustees



Doug Harbach, Chair, Council of Trustees
Trustees



Matt Steck, Secretary, Council of