

**Pennsylvania Western University
Council of Trustees, Regular Meeting**

Thursday, January 25, 2024
2 p.m.

PennWest California – Convocation Center
250 University Ave., California, PA 15419

Meeting Minutes

The Council of Trustees of Pennsylvania Western University met in regular session on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at the PennWest California campus at 250 University Ave. and via Zoom. The meeting began at 2:02 p.m.

Upon calling the council to order, Chair Pape announced that the proceedings of the PennWest University Council of Trustees are recorded. Public disclosure to those in attendance via verbal announcement and written public notice avoids any violation of the Pennsylvania Wire Tapping Act. The meeting was livestreamed for public viewing via YouTube.

ATTENDING

Council of Trustees:

P	Mark Bellini (Virtual)	P	Barry Niccolai
P	JD Dunbar (Virtual)	P	Donna Oberlander
P	Danny Jones	P	Kathy Pape (Virtual)
P	Patricia Kennedy	P	Larry Pickett
P	Rachel Kister	P	Sarah Seader
P	Barbara Logue	P	Neil Weaver
A	Larry Maggi	P	Sonia Yost

Attendance was taken at the direction of Chair Pape and established that a quorum of the Council was present.

Also present were:

Lorraine Bernotsky, Interim President	Scott Heinerichs, Special Assistant to the President
Susanne Fenske, Vice President for Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness	Fawn Petrosky, Vice President for Finance
Jim Fisher, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	Kelly Repinski, Vice President for University Affairs and Advocacy
Sarah Freed, Interim Vice President for Enrollment	Eric Guiser, Senior Associate Vice President for Human Resources
James Geiger, Vice President for Advancement	Molly Passmore, University Legal Counsel (Virtual)

Peter Kuvshnikov, PennWest Faculty Senate (Virtual)	Sam Claster, Local APSCUF President, PennWest Edinboro
Marcella McConnell, PennWest Faculty Senate	Mario Majcen, Local APSCUF President, PennWest California
Robin Weaver, PennWest Faculty Senate	Joyce Overly, Local APSCUF President, PennWest Clarion
	Jared Clark, Principal at CliftonLarsonAllen

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT (Full report in video archive)

Chair Pape provided a report highlighting campus events that took place since the last meeting including homecoming, commencement, and veterans' day celebrations. She also reported that small groups of council members met with faculty leadership to discuss the presidential search. She announced that an ad hoc development committee will be formed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY APSCUF LEADERS (Full comments in video archive)

Dr. Joyce Overly, local APSCUF president, PennWest Clarion
 Dr. Mario Majcen, local APSCUF president, PennWest California.
 Dr. Samuel Claster, local APSCUF president, PennWest Edinboro.

FACULTY SENATE REMARKS (Full comments in video archive)

Dr. Robin Weaver provided remarks on behalf of Faculty Senate and introduced Marcella McConnell; recently elected Faculty Senate Co-Chair at Clarion.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS (Full reports in video archive)

Student trustees Sonia Yost (Edinboro), Rachel Kister (Clarion), and Sarah Seader (California) provided reports on activities at their respective campuses.

PACT/BOG UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Trustees Donna Oberlander and Mark Bellini provided updates on PACT activities.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Pape requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- Meeting Minutes 9-28-2023

The Motion was made by Trustee Oberlander and seconded by Trustee Weaver and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Full remarks in video archive)

Trustees Jones and Logue, co-chairs of the committee, provided an update on committee activity. Dr. Sarah Freed provided updated on enrollment activity.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Full reports in video archive)

Trustee JD Dunbar, co-chair of the committee provided an update on committee activity.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Full reports in video archive)

Trustee Larry Pickett, co-chair of the committee, provided an update on committee activity.

Vice President for Finance and Administration, Fawn Petrosky, recommended that the Council approve a motion relative to external financial support.

The following motion was made by Trustee Niccolai, seconded by Trustee Weaver and passed unanimously after a roll call vote:

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD OF GOVERNORS' POLICY 1985-04-A: UNIVERSITY EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Jared Clark, Principal at CliftonLarsonAllen presented and discussed the June 30, 2023 financial audit of Penn West ("2023 Audit"). Chair Pape asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Audit.

The following motion, made by Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Kennedy. Roll call vote was taken. No opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022 AS PREPARED BY CLIFTONLARSONALLEN

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Full report in video archive)

Interim President Bernotsky highlighted the progress that PennWest has made over the last year, including launch of the new strategic plan, expanding strategic enrollment, improving the student experience, and redesigning the campus leadership model. She extended appreciation to the dedication of the faculty and staff. President Bernotsky thanked recently retired Provost and Vice of Academic Affairs, Dr. Dan Engstrom, and then introduced recently appointed Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jim Fisher. Dr. Fisher shared recent organizational changes in the Academic Affairs Division, including the appointment of Dr. Jackie Knaust as Interim Associate Provost; and Dr. Bob Mehalik to Interim Associate Provost and Graduate Dean.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (Full report in video archive)

Chair Pape provided an update on presidential search. A special meeting will take place the week of February 5 to vote on the approval of the search committee, which will be chaired by Trustee Larry Maggi. Chair Pape shared that Dr. Mohamed Yamba was recently approved by the state Senate fill the vacant seat on the Council of Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Trustee Seader moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Bellini seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Meeting webcast is available [here](#).