

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

Thursday, September 26, 2024

2 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

The Council of Trustees of Pennsylvania Western University met in regular session on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at the PennWest California campus at 250 University Ave. The meeting began at 2:01 p.m.

ATTENDING

Council of Trustees:

P	Mark Bellini	P	Donna Oberlander
P	JD Dunbar	P	Kathy Pape
P	Danny Jones	P	Larry Pickett
P	Patricia Kennedy	P	Neil Weaver
P	Rachel Kister	P	Tyrique Whitson
P	Barbara Logue	P	Mohamed Yamba (virtual)
P	Larry Maggi	P	Sonia Yost
P	Barry Niccolai (virtual)		

Attendance was taken at the direction of Chair Pape and established that a quorum of the Council was present. Rachel Scofield confirmed the meeting was properly noticed per the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

Also present were:

Jon Anderson, President	Joe Miller, University Legal Counsel
Jim Fisher, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	Mario Majcen, Local APSCUF President, PennWest California
Susanne Fenske, Vice President for Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness	Joyce Overly, Local APSCUF President, PennWest Clarion
Marcella McConnell, PennWest Faculty Senate	Robin Weaver, PennWest Faculty Senate
Kelly Repinski, Vice President for Communications and Marketing	Peter Kuvshnikov, PennWest Faculty Senate (virtual)
Fawn Petrosky, Vice President for Finance and Administration	Lee Williams, Local APSCUF Representative, PennWest Edinboro
Sarah Freed, Interim Vice President for Enrollment	Eric Guiser, Senior Associate Vice President for Human Resources
Tony Mauro, AVP for University Development	Wendy Mackall, Executive Director Communications

Cassidy McCormick, Student Presenter	Emily Peters, Student Presenter
Sydney Cochran, Student Presenter	Becky McMillen, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Sheleta Camarda-Webb, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer	Gwen Simmons (virtual)
Anne Simmons Scott	Paul Simmons, Jr.

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT (Full report in video archive)

Chair Pape presented the proposed 2025 Annual Meeting Calendar, which maintains the practice of rotating the location of quarterly meetings across all PennWest campuses.

The following motion was made by Trustee Oberlander, seconded by Trustee Dunbar, and passed unanimously after a voice vote:

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR.

Chair Pape presented a resolution honoring the life and memory of Gwendolyn D. Simmons.

The following motion was made by Trustee Bellini, seconded by Trustee Jones, and passed unanimously after a voice vote:

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE RESOLUTION HONORING GWENDOLYN G. SIMMONS.

Chair Pape and President Anderson presented the resolution to Anne Simmons-Scott and Paul Simmons, Jr., the children of Simmons, who were in attendance.

Chair Pape acknowledged Student Trustee Rachel Kister and presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her dedicated service to the council. Rachel is set to graduate from PennWest Clarion in December 2024.

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

President Anderson expressed gratitude to Anne, Paul, and Gwen Simmons for attending to honor their mother, Gwendolyn Simmons. He also thanked Student Trustee Kister for her service and dedication to PennWest.

He shared his experiences getting to know the institution and its people, expressing appreciation for the warm welcome he and his family have received. President Anderson discussed enrollment, retention, future projections, and his commitment to PennWest.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

REMARKS BY APSCUF (Full comments in video archive)

Dr. Marion Majcen provided remarks on behalf of the APSCUF leadership.

FACULTY SENATE REMARKS (Full comments in video archive)

Dr. Robin Weaver provided remarks on behalf of Faculty Senate.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT (Full reports in video archive)

Student Trustee Tyrique Whitson (California) reported on activities at the California campus, Student Trustee Rachel Kister (Clarion) reported on activities at the Clarion campus, and Student Trustee Sonia Yost (Edinboro) reported on activities at the Edinboro campus.

PACT UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Bellini provided updates on PACT activities.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

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The motion was made by Trustee Bellini, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Dr. Susanne Fenske presented the key findings and strengths from the Middle States self-study, along with an update on the closure of MSCHE off-campus instructional sites. These locations were carried over from a legacy campus during the integration process, but Pennsylvania Western University has no plans to utilize them for instruction in the future. Currently, there are no lease agreements, course instruction, enrollment, or employees at these sites. Instruction ceased prior to integration, and efforts are underway to remove these locations from our additional locations list with Middle States.

The following motion was made by Trustee Oberlander, seconded by Trustee Dunbar, and passed unanimously after a voice vote:

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE REQUEST WITH MIDDLE STATES FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE FOLLOWING SITES:

- **101 Community College Way, Johnstown, PA**
- **102 Equity Drive, Greensburg, PA**
- **131 Columbus Inner Belt, New Castle, PA**
- **147 Poplar Drive, Monaca, PA**
- **1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA**
- **4 Erie Avenue Suite 2000, Saint Mary's, PA**
- **701 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA**
- **751 Liberty Street, Meadville, PA**
- **881 Hills Plaza Drive Suite 450, Ebensburg, PA**
- **College Drive, Butler, PA**
- **Washington Hospital 155 Wilson Avenue, Washington, PA**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Full remarks in video archive)

Trustees Jones and Logue, co-chairs of the committee, provided an update on committee activity.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Dr. Sarah Freed, Interim Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management, provided an update on enrollment status and activity.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Full reports in video archive)

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

Students Sydney Cochran, Cassidy McCormick, and Emily Peters presented on the positive outcomes of participation in campus clubs and organizations.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Full reports in video archive)

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

Vice President for Finance and Administration, Fawn Petrosky, presented the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 for council approval.

The following motion was made by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Trustee Weaver, and passed unanimously after a voice vote.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

Chair Pape acknowledged Fawn Petrosky for her years of service, as she will be retiring at the end of December. Additionally, he announced that a national search is currently underway for the next Vice President for Finance and Administration.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Pape and Vice President for Advancement, Tony Mauro, Associate Vice President for Development, provided an update on committee activity.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Full report in video archive)

Chair Pape explained that the bylaws state that the officers of the Council are to be elected every two years at the last quarterly meeting of the Council and shall hold office until their successors are legally elected, taking office at the first meeting of the calendar year (January 2025). She then introduced the Nominating Committee chair, Neil Weaver, to conduct the election process.

Trustee Weaver outlined the voting procedure and then conducted the officer elections.

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Trustee Whitson was nominated for the position of Secretary and accepted the nomination.

After a unanimous roll-call vote, Trustee Whiston will serve as Secretary beginning at the first meeting of the council of trustees in January 2025.

COUNCIL VICE CHAIR

Trustees Maggi and Pickett were nominated for the position of Vice Chair. Both accepted their nomination.

After a roll call vote, Trustee Pickett received 11 votes and Trustee Maggi 4 votes. Trustee Pickett will serve as Vice Chair beginning at the first meeting of the Council of Trustees in January 2025.

COUNCIL CHAIR

Trustees Dunbar and Pape were nominated for the position of Chair. Both accepted their nomination.

After a roll call vote, Trustee Dunbar received 8 votes and Trustee Pape 7 votes. Trustee Dunbar will serve as Chair beginning at the first meeting of the council of trustees in January 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Trustee Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Oberlander seconded the motion, which passed unanimously after a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Meeting webcast is available [here](#).