THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The University Faculty Senate

AGENDA

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Via ZOOM at 2:30 p.m
ZOOM link: https://psu.zoom.us/j/93585910342

Or Telephone:
Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833
or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799
Webinar ID: 935 8591 0342
International numbers available: https://psu.zoom.us/u/adK6W5zrV1
Or iPhone one-tap:
US: +16468769923,,93585910342# or +13017158592,,93585910342#

We will use TallySpace to vote during this meeting. Senators who have voting rights should have their Penn State 9-digit ID number ready and follow the instructions found here:
https://senate.psu.edu/senators/tallyspace-voting-instructions/

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

   Comments by Executive Vice President and Provost Nicholas P. Jones

B. DISCUSSION

   RESOLUTION ON REQUIRING COVID-19 VACCINATION STARTING IN FALL 2021 SEMESTER Appendix A

C. DISCUSSION

   Letter from the University Faculty Senate to the Board of Trustees Appendix B

D. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSITY
E. ADJOURNMENT

Senators are reminded to wait to be unmuted and identify themselves and their voting unit before speaking on the floor. Members of the University community, who are not Senators, may not speak at a Senate meeting unless they request and are granted the privilege of the floor from the Senate Chair at least five days in advance of the meeting.
RESOLUTION ON REQUIRING COVID-19 VACCINATION STARTING IN FALL 2021 SEMESTER

COVID-19 has had devastating impacts worldwide, killing over 3 million people, including over 575,000 in the United states and over 26,000 in Pennsylvania. While we are currently seeing a decline in the number of cases, case counts remain high and COVID-19 presents a continuing public health threat. Fortunately, multiple vaccines have been developed that have proved highly effective at curbing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing hospitalizations and death and the vaccines are becoming widely available on a daily basis. While as of this date the available vaccines have been approved for emergency rather than ongoing use, nevertheless both medical expertise and large amounts of data support the safety and life-saving effectiveness of the vaccines, and therefore, weighing risks and benefits, we urge the importance of protecting everyone's lives through vaccination. Last December, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued guidance stating that there are no current laws preventing the requirement of vaccinations for employees and for almost 100 years, courts have upheld vaccine requirements in educational settings. Over 210 universities have announced COVID vaccination requirements for the Fall Semester, including over 70 public institutions and three institutions in the Big 10: Rutgers University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Michigan.

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania State University has an obligation to protect the health and well-being of its faculty, students, staff, and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania State University already requires documentation of immunization against measles, mumps, and rubella, and students living in University housing must also be vaccinated against meningitis; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate calls on the Pennsylvania State University to require proof of immunization from COVID-19, subject to exception for medical conditions and religious beliefs, for all faculty, students, and staff before they are permitted to utilize any campus beginning at the start of Fall Semester 2021.

Sponsored by members of The College of the Liberal Arts Faculty Senate Caucus:

Valerie Branan
Douglas Bird
Stephen Browne, Chair, Liberal Arts Caucus of Senators
Khytam Dawood
Sibusiwe Dube
Caroline Eckhardt
Samuel Frederick
Joyce Furfaro
Mathias Hanses
Melissa Hardy
Zaryab Iqbal
Rosemary Jolly
Elizabeth Kadetsky
Stan Kranc
Amy Linch
Jeff Love
Heather McCoy
Margaret Michels
Richard Page Jr.
Martha Sherman
Mark Shriver
Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor
Josh Wede
Chris Zorn

Members of the UPUA (University Park Undergraduate Association) Senate Caucus
Erin Boas

Erin Boas (UPUA Student Body President, College of the Liberal Arts)
Lewis Richardson (UPUA Chair of Academic Affairs, Schreyer Honors College)
Noah Robertson (UPUA Vice Chair of Academic Affairs, College of the Liberal Arts)
Megan Neely (College of Arts and Architecture)
Subject: The Process for Selecting a New President

To the Board of Trustee Leadership: Matthew Schuyler, Chair; David Kleppinger, Vice-Chair; Julie Anna Potts, co-Chair of the Presidential Recruitment and Selection Committee; and all Board Membership.

We, the University Faculty Senate, are writing to you regarding the current process of selection for the new President of the University.

The Senate’s rationale for the following request rests upon both the need for, and advantages of, substantial and meaningful input from the university community in the upcoming phases of the search for the new President. We truly appreciate that the existing Trustee Selection Council includes a senior faculty member (two, counting the academic trustee); and that input has been widely invited during the “listening phase” of the present search. Nevertheless, informed and confidential input from a broad range of selected stakeholder representatives is also essential in subsequent phases of the search.

Such representation, as part of the process, will help ensure that candidates perceive Penn State as a collaborative community in which shared governance is operating well, which helps to make our presidency an attractive opportunity.

A collaborative process during subsequent phases of the search will also ensure that the nineteenth President of the Pennsylvania State University, once appointed, can take up their position with a solid basis of legitimacy and support from the entire university community, rather than facing stakeholders troubled because they lacked representation. Our incoming president will then not need to deal with establishing credibility or mending relations within the university, but will be able to call upon the whole university’s welcoming support in addressing the already formidable challenges that lie ahead.

Therefore, the Senate recommends that to work along with the Trustee Selection Council, the search process include a committee with representation of deans and chancellors, faculty, staff, and students, including commonwealth campus representation. We further advise that the structure of including four members of each committee to sit in on the deliberations and candidate interviews of the other committee, which was used in the 2013 presidential search, represents a useful precedent and a model practice of collaboration.

There are different ways of implementing this concept. One would be to use the model of the 2013 selection of Penn State’s President, with its two committees that ensured participation across the university community. There was a 14-member Trustee Presidential Selection Council, chaired by a Trustee; and an 18-member University Presidential Search and Screen Committee, chaired by a Dean. A similar Presidential Search and Screen Committee could now be formed in accordance with this precedent, with the same mandate, that is, to work in confidence with the Trustee Presidential Selection Council until the point when the Trustees make the final decision.
Another option would be to activate a revised version of the Next Gen committee. This would be a "Next Gen 2" committee, smaller than the first and with adjustments in membership to reflect the next phases of the search, and including deans and chancellors, faculty, staff, and students. This committee's work would once again, of course, be confidential.

In either of those forms, or similar forms, the existence of such a committee and its collaboration with the Trustee Selection Council in the remaining phases of the search, up until the Board of Trustees makes the final decision, would be publicly visible. This visibility would provide evidence and assurance to the entire University, and to its public constituencies, that Penn State is undertaking this crucial search as a collaborative community, with respect for our different roles while reflecting our combined engagement and dedication to the many forms of the University's success.

We appreciate the Board’s attention to this issue of such great import to both Board and Senate and indeed to the University as a whole.

Sincerely,

Sponsored by:

Members of the College of the Liberal Arts Faculty Senate Caucus
Valerie Braman
Douglas Bird
Stephen Browne, Chair, Liberal Arts Caucus of Senators
Khytam Dawood
Sibusiwe Dube
Caroline D. Eckhardt
Samuel Frederick
Joyce Furfaro
Mathias Hanses
Melissa Hardy
Zaryab Iqbal
Rosemary Jolly
Elizabeth Kadetsky
Stan Kranc
Amy Linch
Jeff Love
Heather McCoy
Margaret Michels
Richard Page Jr.
Martha Sherman
Mark Shriver
Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor
Josh Wede
Chris Zorn

College of Health & Human Development Faculty Senate Caucus
Czymoniewicz-Klippel, Melina
Hardyk, Andrew
Jones, Maureen C.
Kramer, Lauren
Rutherford Siegel, Susan
Stine, Michele
Sharma, Amit
Shearer, Gregory

College of Education Faculty Senate Caucus
Joshua Kirby
Wendy Coduti
Paul Riccomini
Jonte Taylor
Karen Eppley
Andrea McCloskey

College of Agriculture Faculty Senate Caucus
Glenna, Leland
Perkins, Daniel F.
Maximova, Siela
Shannon, Robert
Harte, Federico
Marshall, Megan
Weld, Jennifer
Demirici, Ali
Holden, Lisa

Additional Faculty Senators:
Kenyon, William
King, Brian
Marko, Frank
Marvasti, Karyn
Ozment, Judy
Posey, Lisa
Since, Alok
Seymour, Beth
Szczygiel, Bonj
Tallman, Nathan