Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2007
MEMBERS PRESENT | OTHERS PRESENT
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Dr. Claibourne D. Smith, Chairman | Dr. Kenneth Bell, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. John Land, Vice Chairman | Mrs. Carolyn Curry, Vice President for Development and University Relations
Dr. A. Richard Barros | Mr. Mark Farley, Vice President for Human Resources and Legislative Affairs
Mr. Marvin Lawrence | Mr. Donald Henry, Vice President for Business and Finance
Mr. Norman Oliver | Mr. Amir Mohammadi, Vice President for Student Affairs
Mr. José Echeverri | Dr. Russell Merrill, Vice President for Technology and Chief Information Officer
Mr. Charles McDowell | Dr. Lee Streetman, Faculty Senate Chair
Ms. Richelle Vible | Mrs. Terry Coleman
Dr. Matthew Mackie | Mr. Ira Daniel, SGA President
Mr. Wesley Perkins | 
Mr. Bennie Smith | 
Dr. Calvin Wilson | 
Dr. Allen L. Sessoms, President Delaware State University | 

Chairman Claibourne D. Smith welcomed all to the April Board of Trustees meeting and stated that there was an aggressive agenda and he introduced Dr. John Land who wanted to present the Women’s Basketball Team and Cheerleaders to the Board and recognize them for their achievements and acknowledge them on their great season. Dr. Land yielded to Chairman Smith who read a Resolution, as presented, to the Women’s BB Team. Head Coach, Ed Davis thanked the BOT on behalf of the team. Dr. Land introduced the Cheerleaders next. Chairman Smith read a Resolution to the Cheerleaders, as presented, on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Chairman Smith read a Resolution, as presented in recognition of Joseph J. Corrado who resigned his position on the Board two months ago. Resolutions are attached as part of the minutes of the Board of Trustees of Delaware State University, Thursday, April 12, 2007 meeting. Chairman Smith indicated that there were legal and personnel matters to discuss; therefore, he wanted to move into
Executive Session. Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters at 2:15 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting resumed in open session at 2:45 p.m.

Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2007 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The motion passed unanimously.

After the motion was passed, Chairman Smith called for Committee Reports.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Dr. John Land, chair)

Vice Chairman Land reported that the Student Affairs Committee met with the Vice President of Student Affairs, Mr. Amir Mohammadi on March 29, 2007. Vice Chairman Land commented that during that meeting Mr. Mohammadi gave an overview of the work order system and reorganizing Facilities Management. He stated further that a grid of this system was included in your Board package for your information. Chairman Land commented that during the meeting the Committee on Student Affairs was introduced to the new Executive Director for Residential Education and Student Life, Mr. Ron Williams.

There were no items for Board action.

Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report from the Student Affairs Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (Dr. A. Richard Barros, chair)

Dr. Barros reported that the Educational Policy Committee met on March 13, 2007 and that there were three items for Board action. Dr. Barros read the following motion:

MOTION: Moved, that those faculty members and other AAUP unit members named in the attached list as presented be appointed for the academic year 2007-2008 per established procedures.

The motion passed unanimously.
Dr. Barros read the following motion:

MOTION: Moved, that the Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees accept the following recommendations on promotion and tenure effective at the beginning of academic year 2007-2008 effective as of the date of this meeting April 12, 2007: (The following faculty were recommended by the Educational Policy Committee for promotion or tenure at its meeting on March 13, 2007.)

Promotion to Full Professor:

Professor Dae R. Kim, Department of Management, College of Business

Promotion to Associate Professor:

Professor Janet Blade, Department of Sport Sciences, College of Education and Sport Sciences

Professor Yinghong Cheng, Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Dragoljub Prokrajac, Department of Computer and Information Sciences, College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology

Professor Carlos Rodriguez, Department of Management, College of Business

Granted Tenure

Professor Constant Beugre, Department of Management, College of Business

Professor Li Chen, Department of Sport Sciences, College of Education and Sport Sciences

Professor Billie Friedland, Department of Education, College of Education and Sport Sciences

Professor Amy Rogers, Department of Psychology, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Roberta Tucci, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Nanda Viswanathan, Department of Management, College of Business
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Professor Kelvina Vulinec, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Related Sciences

Professor Bizuneh Workie, Department of Chemistry, College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Barros read the following motion:

MOTION: Moved, that the Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees accept the following recommendation on Requests for Authorization to Plan Five Graduate Programs for further planning as presented and listed below:

Requests for Authorization to Plan Five Graduate Programs
Ph.D. in Neuroscience – N I H funded
Ph.D. in Applied Chemistry – N S F funded
Ph.D. in Optics – N S F funded
M.S. in Applied Optics– N S F funded
M.S. in Computer Science– N S F funded

The Board acknowledged the requests and approved moving ahead with the aforementioned programs. The motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Barros stated that the Board of Trustees needs a closer relationship with the Faculty Senate and proposed creating a liaison committee to help in that endeavor. He commented that the chairs of the EPC and Faculty Senate could establish a schedule of four meetings per year to bring together members of the BOT and Faculty Senate to discuss things of mutual interest between the two bodies. Dr. Barros wants the Board to acknowledge that the University needs to create such a joint committee. Dr. Barros yielded to Chairman Smith.

Chairman Smith entertained comments from the Trustees and applauded Dr. Barros for presenting his idea to want to create a venue to engage in open dialog among the Board of Trustees and Faculty Members. Chairman Smith thanked Dr. Barros for his willingness to head an ad-hoc committee to initiate this and welcomed the opportunity to contribute to this endeavor. In other matters, a Commencement Speaker has not been identified at this time.

Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report from the Educational Policy Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.
THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (Mrs. Vible & Mr. Lawrence, co-chairs)

Mrs. Vible reported that the Finance Committee met on the following dates: February 16, 2007, (teleconference meeting) March 29 and April 12, 2007.

Ms. Vible commented that the goal of each meeting was to review year-to-date financial information for the University. She stated that there were information technology difficulties which caused reports to be behind schedule. FY 2006/07 financial reports were reviewed up to the end of February. Ms. Vible stated that the University will break even this year. She stated that the Finance Committee has done some work on the pending tuition and fee schedule for FY 08; however, the report is not yet complete as of this date. There were no items for Board action.

Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Finance Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS (Mr. Marvin Lawrence, chair)

Mr. Lawrence reported that the Development and Investments Committee met on March 30 and April 12, 2007. He gave an overview of the following activities within the area of Development:

- New hires in the department
- A comprehensive strategic plan has been developed on the future of fundraising, overall development activity – three year goals of what and how the University is doing
- Grant writing
- Corporate and family giving and fundraising
- Golf Tournament on May 24, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. at Wild Quail
- Nancy Wagner hired to bolster community outreach efforts
- Athletic Marketing person hired (Mike Wilson)
- Foundation Board established to help generate big dollars – information will be forthcoming to the Executive Committee of the BOT then to the full Board in June once document is completed with necessary changes

There were no items for Board action.

Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Committee on Development and Investments.

The motion passed unanimously.
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**AUDIT COMMITTEE (Mr. José Echeverri, chair)**

Mr. Echeverri reported that the Audit Committee met on April 10, 2007. He commented that the 2006 single audit was made and that it will be completed by April 12 or 13, 2007. Mr. Echeverri stated that Mr. Ed Watson, the internal auditor, was in control of the University’s asset management processes. There were no items for Board action.

Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Audit Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE (Dr. John Land, interim chair)**

Chairman Smith thanked Dr. Land for co-chairing both the Student Affairs Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Dr. Smith yielded to Dr. Land who reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on April 12, 2007 where the focus was on the Wellness Center and Student Center Building projects. Dr. Land commented that the Architect, Holzman Moss gave a presentation during the April 12 meeting and discussed the plans thoroughly. The architect also commented on the escalating costs of building materials. Dr. Land stated that the Wellness Center is planned for completion in 2008. He commented that there were a number of projects including the Wellness Center and Student Center that will be delivered on time and on budget.

A brief discussion ensued on the Civic Center Project. There is no movement on this project. A decision is to be made at a later date.

In other matters, there were two contracts that needed Board approval. Dr. Land read the following motion:

**Motion: moved to approve the awarding of two contracts, as follows:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>VENDOR</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residence Housing</td>
<td>Norman W. Johnson Bldrs.</td>
<td>$397,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Water Main</td>
<td>Garrison Enterprise, Inc.</td>
<td>$392,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade Phase III</td>
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</tbody>
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Prior to approval of the motion, a short discussion ensued regarding the contracts.

It was moved and properly seconded to approve the contracts listed above as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.
Chairman Smith asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Oliver exited the meeting due to a prior commitment.

THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT (Dr. Allen Lee Sessoms, president)

President Sessoms commented on the following:

- Organizational Chart distributed (draft)
- Folder on the arts received from Dr. Brad Skelcher. President Sessoms yielded to Dr. Skelcher who gave an overview of the contents relative to Visual & Performing Arts activities. President Sessoms returned to the chair.
- Recruitment efforts – SEEDS negative impact on the University
- Post Cards distributed to graduating seniors and parents
- Five-Year Periodic Review – first draft of report will be on the website, visit and make comments to the attention of Drs. Frederick or Bell
- Power fluctuation on March 31 caused computer system to crash – but was restored by April 2 (students were alerted about the problem). IBM hardware problems. President Sessoms yielded to Dr. Merrill who spoke about additional back-up measures that IBM is working on to resolve issues with server. Higher Education is in a technology crunch across the board. President Sessoms returned to the chair.
- Doctoral programs approved for planning
- Commencement – May 20, 2007 – will advise on speaker as we are closer to the date
- Dr. John Graham gave an outstanding presentation on International Programs during the lunch hour
- Study Abroad experience is a great opportunity for the students
- Bond Bill Hearing is May 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. with the JFC at Legislative Hall - $7.5M request to the Governor, 20 percent received of our request
- Women’s Basketball Team made University history for its remarkable season as MEAC Champions and first ever NCAA appearance
- Harold Burnett, Jr. won Mr. HBCU during a national competition
- Pep Band gave an outstanding performance in Michigan which garnered them national recognition and the University received a number of applications from students who wanted to join the band.
President Sessoms concluded his report and yielded to the Chairman of the Board. Chairman Smith mentioned that the AGB Conference was held in Phoenix, AZ this year and asked Board Members who attended for brief comments of their experiences while attending the National Conference on Trusteeship. Trustees McDowell, Land, Barros, B. Smith, Echeverri, Mackie, Perkins, Vible and Chairman Smith each gave brief remarks regarding their conference experiences, networking opportunities, workshops they attended and the round table discussions they participated in relative to higher education governance and trusteeship.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Smith asked for public comments. There were three individuals who signed up for public comment, but only two were present to speak; Mr. Clay Hammond and Mr. Rodney Foust. The third person, Ms. Damita White, left the meeting prior to the Chairman calling for public comments.

First to speak was Mr. Clay Hammond who commented on the economic impact study and the need for minority entrepreneurs to be engaged in more commerce at the University. He distributed a copy of a letter addressed to the Vice President of Business and Finance, Mr. Don Henry, requesting a meeting be set up to further discuss the supplier diversity program at Delaware State University.

Second to speak was Mr. Rodney Foust, a small business owner specializing in snack food in New Castle, DE, who commented that he has been trying to do business with Delaware State University for some time. He shared his business cards with members of the Board and thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to speak and looks forward to doing business with the University in the near future.

Mr. Lawrence responded to Mr. Hammond’s comments and apologized to him for not getting back to him in a timely manner due to conflicts in his schedule.

President Sessoms responded to Mr. Foust’s comments and stated that the University is looking into ways of exploring opportunities in the area of small business vendors.

Lastly, Chairman Smith remarked that a special teleconference meeting may be required of the Board of Trustees before the next regular meeting of the Board in June.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claibourne D. Smith, Chairman
1. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.
2. The Board reconvened in regular session.
3. Approved the minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2007.
4. Accepted the report from the Student Affairs Committee.
5. Approved faculty members and other AAUP unit members named in the attached list as presented be appointed for the academic year 2007-2008 per established procedures.
6. Accepted and approved list of faculty members, as presented, on promotion and tenure effective at the beginning of academic year 2007-2008.
7. Acknowledged and approved moving ahead with the requests for authorization to plan five graduate programs as listed below.

   Requests for Authorization to Plan Five Graduate Programs
   Ph.D. in Neuroscience – N I H funded
   Ph.D. in Applied Chemistry – N S F funded
   Ph.D. in Optics – N S F funded
   M.S. in Applied Optics– N S F funded
   M.S. in Computer Science– N S F funded

8. Accepted the report from the Educational Policy Committee.
9. Accepted the report from the Committee on Finance.
10. Accepted the report from the Committee on Development and Investments.
11. Accepted the report from the Audit Committee.
12. Approved the awarding of two contacts listed below.

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13. Accepted the report from the Committee on Buildings and Grounds.