

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

Thursday, June 25, 2026

2 p.m.

PennWest Edinboro – Frank G. Pogue Student Center, Multipurpose Room
Edinboro, PA

Meeting Minutes

The Council of Trustees of Pennsylvania Western University met in regular session on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at the PennWest Edinboro campus, Frank G. Pogue Student Center, Multipurpose Room. The meeting began at 2:01 p.m.

ATTENDING

Council of Trustees:

P	Mark Bellini	P	Barbara Logue
P	Raechel Braun	P	Larry Maggi
P	JD Dunbar	P	Barry Niccolai (Virtual)
P	Aiden Dougan	P	Donna Oberlander
P	Addison Gregory	P	Kathy Pape
A	Danny Jones	P	Larry Pickett
P	Patricia Kennedy	P	Neil Weaver
		A	Mohamed Yamba

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

Also present were:

Jon Anderson, President	Zach Nahass, University Legal Counsel (V)
James Fisher, PASSHE Interim Vice Chancellor	Chris Wydra, Co-Chair Faculty Senate, California Campus
Jim Geiger, VP for Advancement and Clarion Campus Administrator	Xiaofeng Li, Co-Chair Faculty Senate, Clarion Campus
Kelly Repinski, VP for Communications and Marketing	Michelle Kimmy, Co-Chair Faculty Senate, Edinboro Campus
Susanne Fenske, VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Affairs	Lee Williams, APSCUF Representative, Edinboro Campus
Darren Wagner, VP for Strategic Enrollment Management	Tony Grychowski, Controller
Mary Paniccia Carden, Acting Provost	Shawn Hoke, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
Sheleta Camarda Webb, Associate Vice President of CORE Strategic Initiatives	Amanda Sisseem, Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement
Bob Mehalik, Associate Provost and Graduate Dean	Jackie Knaust, Interim Dean

Jennifer Wilburn, Interim Associate Dean of College of Science Technology and Business	Kristin Brockett, Executive Director of University Storytelling and Magazine Editor
Dennis Frampton, Edinboro Trustee Emeritus Nominee	Dan Higham, Edinboro Trustee Emeritus Nominee
Barbara Chaffee, Edinboro Trustee Emeritus Nominee	Harold Shields, Edinboro Trustee Emeritus Nominee
Rebecca Dougan	Stephanie Shields

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

President's updates focused on PennWest's continued commitment to student success, including enrollment and retention initiatives that strengthen transfer pathways, expand partnerships with school districts and community colleges, and enhance opportunities for adult learners and working professionals. The report also highlighted recent student achievements across all campuses, showcasing excellence in applied learning, academic perseverance, and national recognition in creative disciplines.

Updates were provided on the Presidential Task Forces. The Data Strategy Task Force has completed its work, with Cabinet-approved recommendations now entering implementation. The Strategic Planning Task Force is nearing completion, with recommendations focused on recruitment, retention, the student experience, and post-graduation outcomes. The Capital Campaign Task Force concluded its summer work after meeting with academic departments to identify campaign priorities, generating 20 project submissions. During the campaign's quiet phase, PennWest raised \$17.9 million across all campuses.

An overview of the Campus Master Plan outlined efforts to address deferred maintenance, align facilities with enrollment trends, support evolving academic priorities, enhance athletics and student life, and strengthen community connections. Proposed plans would reduce campus space by approximately 1.2 million square feet and re-evaluate nearly \$20 million in deferred maintenance costs, while preserving key cultural hub facilities on each campus.

The president also recognized upcoming Trustee Emeritus nominations, welcomed new hires Dr. Kristy Bishop and Terri Albertson, and expressed appreciation to Dr. JD Fisher for his contributions as Interim Provost.

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT (Full report in video archive)

Chair Dunbar welcomed incoming student trustees Raechel Braun from the Clarion campus, and Addison Gregory, from the California campus.

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

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE TRUSTEE EMERITUS NOMINATIONS FOR FORMER EDINBORO UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES BARBARA CHAFFEE, DENNIS FRAMPTON, DAN HIGHAM, HAROLD SHIELDS AND ROB LOWTHER.

Trustees Bellini, Pape, Dougan and Kennedy recognized the newly elected emeritus trustees and presented certificates to those attending.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Weaver, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee consists of Trustee Jones, Trustee Oberlander, and himself.

Trustee Weaver called for nominations for the slate of officers and announced the nominations received to date. He reminded trustees that additional nominations may still be submitted.

The following nominations were presented:

Secretary: Trustee Dougan and Trustee Bellini

Vice Chair: Trustee Pickett and Trustee Bellini

Chair: Trustee Dunbar

All nominees accepted their nominations.

The election of officers will take place at the October 1, 2026, meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Full report in video archive) – Koa Knopsnider, PennWest California student.

REMARKS BY APSCUF (Full comments in video archive)

Dr. Lee Williams provided remarks on behalf of the APSCUF leadership.

FACULTY SENATE REMARKS (Full comments in video archive)

Dr. Michelle Kimmy provided remarks on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT (Full reports in video archive)

Student Trustee Aiden Dougan (Edinboro) reported on activities on the Edinboro campus, Student Trustee Addison Gregory (California) reported on activities at the California campus, and Student Trustee Raechel Braun (Clarion) reported on activities on the Clarion campus.

PACT UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Bellini provided updates on PACT activities.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Maggi, committee chair, provided an update on committee activities. Kelly Repinski, Vice President for Communications and Marketing, then presented an overview of public relations efforts, including news site analytics, social media engagement, marketing performance metrics, and updates on the campus and housing marketing campaigns.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Full remarks in video archive)

Trustee Logue, committee vice chair, provided an update on committee activity. Dr. Mary Paniccia Carden, Acting Provost, presented the division report.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Darren Wagner, Vice President for Enrollment Management, provided an update on recruitment and enrollment.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Pickett, committee vice chair, provided an update on committee activity. Dr. Susanne Fenske, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Affairs presented the division report.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Oberlander, committee vice chair, provided an update on committee activity. Tony Grychowski, Controller, presented the report.

The following motion was made by Trustee Pape, seconded by Trustee Oberlander, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE STUDENT FEE RATES AS PRESENTED EFFECTIVE FALL 2026-2027.

Tony Grychowski then presented the preliminary annual operating budget for fiscal year 2026-2027.

The following motion was made by Trustee Oberlander, seconded by Trustee Pickett, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PRELIMINARY ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT** (Full report in video archive)

Trustee Niccolai, committee chair, provided an update on committee activity.

Jim Geiger, Vice President for Advancement and Clarion Campus Administrator, presented the University Advancement report

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Meeting webcast is available [here](#).