



Board of Trustees Semiannual Meeting Minutes

University of Delaware

May 16, 2023 at 3:00 PM EDT

@ Audion at the STAR Campus | 100 Discovery Blvd., Newark DE 19713

Attendance

Present:

Members: Carol Ammon, Dennis Assanis, Christopher Baker, Jim Borel, Shawn Brittingham, Allison Castellanos, John Cochran, Joan Coker, Beth Cooper, Claire DeMatteis, William DiMondi, Donna Fontana, Michael Geltzeiler, Kathleen Hawkins, Terri Kelly, William Lafferty, Nisha Lodhavia, Guy Marcozzi, Terence Murphy, Debra Norris, John Paradee, Claudia Peña Porretti, Donald Puglisi, Edmond Sannini, Sean Wang, Freeman Williams

Absent:

Members: James Correll, Robert Rider Jr., David Spartin, Kenneth Whitney

I. Call to Order

Ms. Kelly called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. Attendance Report

Ms. Hawkins reported the attendance report and noted a quorum for the meeting.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2023

Approved as presented.

IV. Public Comment

Ms. Brand recognized four members of the public for presentation of public comment. Ms. Brand recognized Ms. Purcell, Mr. Bancroft, Dr. Morgan and Dr. Sawyer to present to the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Kelly thanked those who provided public comment for providing public comment and bringing these issues to the Board's attention.

V. Report of the President

Dr. Assanis welcomed board members and the public to the meeting and thanked all in attendance. He noted several campus updates and informed the Board of the honorary degree class for 2023 as well as the commencement speaker, Dr. Mae Jemison. He presented the Warner and Taylor Alumni Awards winners for the class of 2023 and highlighted a record number of students and alumni recognized through top national scholarships including Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater and Gates Cambridge scholarships. Nearly two-thirds of these award winners are members of the Honors College. The University was recognized through fifteen National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. Dr. Assanis highlighted the successes of student-athletes, including conference successes and several football alumni who have signed deals with professional football teams. He presented on the progress of the name, image and likeness collective for student-athletes and the work of Ms. Rawak to coordinate the 302 Tour which involves student-athletes, coaches and staff engaging throughout the state of Delaware over three days. Dr. Assanis moved to successes in eSports competitions over the past semester. Dr. Assanis presented key accomplishments provided by each of the deans to provide a sampling of the excellence taking place across the university. Dr. Assanis welcomed and recognized Dr. Joseph Fox, who was awarded the Alison Award this year, which honors faculty excellence.

Dr. Assanis presented on the accelerating growth in the University's research enterprise and spoke to the growth in both externally sponsored and total research expenditures from 2019-2022, which in total grew from \$206.3M to \$368.1M. This growth should be reflected in future rankings and highlighted the success in this growth due to the great work of the University's students and faculty.

Dr. Assanis reviewed several recent visits in Southern Delaware, including visits to Legislative Hall to meet with elected officials as well as a tour of the Lasher Laboratory and the Carvel Center. The Southern Delaware Visiting Committee recently met at the Carvel Center and celebrated the role of the University of Delaware in the agriculture and poultry industries. Dr. Assanis thanked the Board for spearheading increased engagement in Southern Delaware and shared his appreciation for all those who participated.

Dr. Assanis presented on the ways that the University is gaining national attention through publications emanating from the university, high-performing social media, attracting national media and celebrating UD achievements, including the celebration of

100 years of study abroad. Dr. Assanis spoke to several updates relating to national and global rankings at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Assanis provided a review of fiscal year 2023, noting a slightly better than budgeted operating surplus, resulting in an operating margin of approximately 2-3%. He shared the ambition to grow the operating surplus toward a target of 5%. The condition for fiscal year 2024 is projected at 1.7%, which will require a continued downward pressure on the institutional discount rate and growth in external funding for scholarships. Revenue growth is necessary, realized through increased use of special sessions and self-paying master's programs, to continue to offer competitive compensation and benefits packages for faculty and staff and provide competitive stipends for doctoral students. Dr. Assanis reviewed plans to develop a multi-year strategic enrollment plan and detailed the separate targets for different segments of the enrollment mix at both the graduate and undergraduate program levels.

Dr. Assanis revised the undergraduate class of 2027 and noted the intention to yield a class near the target of 4,250 in context for first-year class sizes and diversity demographics from 2019-2023. He reiterated the increase in competitiveness for the incoming class and the success of the University in generating demand. He noted recent international visits and how the international enrollment of the University continues to diversify across additional countries. Dr. Assanis spoke to growth in graduate enrollment, with increases in overall graduate student yield, with a slight decline in doctoral students impacted significantly by stipend support levels and the availability of graduate student housing. Dr. Assanis expressed his goal to ensure all programs achieve a 9-month minimum stipend of \$27,000 by fall 2025 and to move three-quarters of doctoral students to have commitments for 12 months of support, either on or off campus. He expressed his confidence that the goal could be met collaboratively with partnership with the provost and the deans. With regard to graduate student housing, this year the University will offer a record number of housing opportunities for graduate students. These programs will inform the planning process regarding more permanent graduate student housing models.

Dr. Assanis presented some initial findings from the student experience master planning process which aims to increase the already outstanding student experience, ranging from tactical interventions to strategic renovations. Dr. Assanis spoke to progress in advancing equity resources and initiatives, including the opening of the center for intercultural engagement, updates to the office of Title IX, and pending updates to Federal Title IX regulations and expected SCOTUS decision on the affirmative action in

admissions. Dr. Assanis reviewed the growth of the University's faculty, demographic details of newly hired faculty and the status of faculty searches for the year. He anticipated approximately 100 new members on the faculty this fall.

Dr. Assanis reported on the updated library annex addition and the process to relocate books in order to make available additional space in Morris Library for gathering for students and to still provide access to those books that might be housed in the annex for occasional use. He presented updated progress photos for the construction of Building X and the potential of this new space once it is completed. He showcased the progress in the Fintech Innovation Hub and the opening of the restaurant on the first floor of the building. Dr. Assanis closed his report to direct individuals to the president's report and introduced Dr. Carlson to provide a report.

Dr. Carlson thanked Dr. Assanis for the introduction and reviewed the pillars of the Forward and Forever strategic plan. She reviewed activities led by faculty members that align with each of the pillars of the plan as anecdotes representing the incredible impact of the faculty. These examples encompass existing projects and those underway that will provide greater impact. She presented a map identifying locations where faculty have international partnership and noted the coverage of nearly every continent. Dr. Carlson spoke to an upcoming summit, One Idea, One Slide, taking place at the end of the week and welcomed participation from the Board and those in attendance.

Dr. Assanis thanked Dr. Carlson for her report. He introduced the next segment of the meeting to include a presentation from a member of the faculty, Dr. Laura Field and introduced her to provide her remarks.

VI. Special Presentation

Dr. Field provided a presentation to the Board on her research relating to the impact of principles-based approaches to director gender.

Ms. Kelly thanked Dr. Field for her presentation.

Ms. Kelly thanked Dr. Assanis and Dr. Carlson for their presentations and highlighted the positive impact of the multi-year enrollment plan, and asked about the research expenditure slide, and Dr. Assanis spoke to the differentiation between externally sponsored research and the total research expenditures.

VII. Reports and Recommendations of the Standing Committees

Ms. Kelly invited the Committee chairs to provide reports of their most recent meetings and noted the work of the Committees in overseeing the University's progress as contemplated through its strategic plan.

A. Public Affairs & Advancement

Ms. DeMatteis reported on the meeting of the Committee on April 18, 2023. She noted an update regarding the work of the Southern Delaware Visiting Committee, and reports from Government Relations, Communications and Marketing, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The Committee considered the implications of the recently passed marijuana legislation, opportunities to strengthen communications with students in the aftermath of local events, and recognized donors who made gifts to the University in excess of \$100,000.

B. Student Life & Athletics

Mr. Lafferty reported on the meeting of April 19, 2023 which was held at Warner Hall. He noted presentations from President Assanis, Athletics, Student Life, and leaders from the student advisory groups on campus. Topics presented complemented Dr. Assanis's report, including the 302 Tour, the Blue Hen Collective name image and likeness opportunities, an update from Dr. Riera on campus activities and the preliminary findings from the student experience master planning process.

C. Academic Affairs

Ms. Fontana reported on the Committee's meeting of April 19, 2023. The Committee received an admissions update from Dr. Assanis, and Dr. Carlson provided an overview of the admissions pipeline and plans to implement a multi-year admissions strategy which dovetails with the faculty hiring process. Dr. Kinservik reported on the COACHE survey and final report and the Committee recommended for approval several programmatic changes and the recognition of faculty personnel actions.

D. Grounds & Buildings

Mr. Borel reported on the Committee's meeting on April 20, 2023. The Committee received updates on the STAR Campus master plan, and other master planning processes underway. The Committee reviewed the portfolio of current capital planning projects and recommended three projects for approval.

E. Finance

Dr. Puglisi reported on the meeting of the Finance Committee on April 20, 2023. He reported on the performance of the endowment portfolio, fiscal year 2023 all funds performance, and the fiscal year 2024 budget. He noted several recommendations from the Committee including the a recommendation of a 4% payout from the endowment, a review of the fiscal year 2024 budget including recommended cost of attendance changes, and recommended approvals relating to capital projects and the updating of banking resolutions.

F. Honorary Degrees & Awards

Ms. Norris reported on the Committee of Honorary Degrees and Awards on April 21, 2023. She reviewed the honorary degree class of 2023 and provided a brief biography on each of the recipients. She noted discussion of Medal of Distinction candidates and the recent awards to David Plastino and upcoming awards in the near-term. She encouraged those in participation to continue to encourage the submission of honorees in the future.

G. Nominating

Mr. Murphy reported on the meeting of the Nominating Committee on May 5, and noted the recommended re-election of four members for a term of six years.

Motion:

To re-elect Ms. Donna Fontana, Ms. Debra Hess Norris, Mr. Edmond Sannini and Mr. Robert Rider Jr. to a second, six-year term.

Approved as presented.

Mr. Murphy presented one new member recommended to the Board by the Nominating Committee for a term of six years, Mr. Nicholas Marsini.

Motion:

To elect Mr. Nicholas Marsini to a six-year term.

Approved as presented.

Dr. Puglisi invited those board officer candidates to leave the room momentarily, and presented the proposed slate of officers for 2023-2024 for approval.

Motion:

To approve the slate of officers for the year 2023-2024

Approved as presented.

Dr. Puglisi reported that the election of officers concluded the report of the Nominating Committee.

H. Executive

Ms. Kelly reported that the Executive Committee met on May 5, 2023 and received reports and recommendations from each of the standing committees. She thanked the Committee Chairs and others for their active participation and support of the work of the University.

Ms. Kelly provided a brief update on the work of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee and noted its most recent meeting of April 21, 2023 and included the participation of students, which we do for all of our standing committees. We received an update from Ms. Conley and noted the connection of these conversations to the work of the university and the standing committees more broadly. She noted recent changes and the interest in a future climate survey for the committee.

VIII. Consent Agenda of Resolutions for Approval by the Board of Trustees

- A. Recognition of Gifts
- B. Academic Resolutions
- C. Endowment Distribution for Fiscal Year 2024

- D. Banking Resolutions
- E. Faculty Personnel Actions (named professorships and promotion and tenure)
- F. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Fees
- G. Capital Projects
- H. Honorary Degree Class of 2023

Motion:

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

Approved as presented.

IX. Other Matters

X. Special Recognitions

Ms. Kelly took a moment to present the names of those faculty being recognized for their respective personnel actions and to recognize those individuals in attendance to be congratulated.

Motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes to acknowledge and celebrate faculty excellence, and to enter such acknowledgement into the formal record of Board proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees congratulates each of the individuals listed in this resolution on their respective personnel actions.

Approved as presented.

Ms. Kelly, Ms. Norris and Dr. Assanis individually recognized four members of the University of Delaware community with the University of Delaware Medal of Distinction:

- Dr. Maria Aristigueta
- Dr. John Pelesko
- Dr. Bruce Weber
- Mr. Mark Samuels Lasner

XI. Adjournment

With no additional business, the Board adjourned its meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.