

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF TRUSTEES OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, HELD AT THE KOVALCHICK  
CONVENTION AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX,  
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024, AT 5:00 P.M.,  
PURSUANT TO NOTICE GIVEN.**

Samuel H. Smith, chair of the IUP Council of Trustees, called the meeting to order.

**The following council members were present:**

Mr. Samuel H. Smith, Chair  
Mrs. Laurie A. Kuzneski, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Joyce R. Fairman, Secretary  
Mrs. Jennifer E. Baker

Mr. A. Tim Cejka  
Ms. Shagufta Haque  
Mr. David Osikowicz  
Mr. Nathan T. Spade

**The following council members were present via videoconferencing:**

Mrs. Anne White, Treasurer  
Mrs. Susan S. Delaney

**The following council member was excused:**

Mr. Mark A. Holman

**The following advisory group members were invited to attend:**

Dr. Bryan Seal, IUP Senate Chair  
Mrs. Regina Stover, Foundation for IUP Board President  
Ms. Leslie Purser, IUP Alumni Association Board President  
Dr. Dennis Frketich, IUP APSCUF President  
Mrs. Erin Fritz Wood, IUP SCUPA President  
Ms. Koga Chilume, IUP Graduate Student Assembly President  
Ms. Abigail Hancox, IUP Student Government Association President

*Ex officio:* Dr. Daniel Greenstein, chancellor, Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, was not present.

**The following university administrators attended:**

Dr. Michael A. Driscoll, President  
Dr. Lara Luetkehans, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Debra Fitzsimons, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Dr. Thomas C. Segar, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Ms. Jennifer Dunsmore, Interim Vice President for University Advancement  
Ms. Paula Stossel, Strategic Advisor to the President for Student Success  
Dr. Francisco Alarcón, Professor and Chair, Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences

**IUP COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES' EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

The IUP Council of Trustees met in executive sessions to discuss personnel issues, collective bargaining/labor relations matters, acquisition of real estate, litigation, academic issues, and other privileged and confidential matters.

## **READING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES**

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees with a few minor edits to the minutes for the meeting on December 14, 2023:

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2023, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING ON JANUARY 31, 2024, BE APPROVED.**

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Driscoll opened by saying the spring semester is almost half over, and so far, it's been a good one. He was excited to report there is evidence showing that the new student success infrastructure adopted last summer is already having positive effects. Enrollment for the spring semester is 8,536, which is a 6.5 percent increase from the spring 2023 semester.

The really impressive statistic, he said, relates to the class of students who were new to IUP last fall. The university retained 90.1 percent of those first-year students from the fall semester to the spring, the first time IUP has retained more than 90 percent of a first-year class in 14 years.

Not only are the students here—they are thriving, Dr. Driscoll said. Thirteen percent of the first-year students attained a perfect 4.0 grade point average in the fall semester. Zooming out on that statistic, nearly one in five undergraduates earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Some of the credit for those improved statistics should go to the work IUP has put into ensuring students have the best opportunity to succeed. It begins, he said, with the 18 navigators who were hired last summer to help transform the student experience.

Every IUP student, undergraduate or graduate, from first year to last year, is assigned to a navigator for assistance with pretty much anything the student needs to be a success, Dr. Driscoll said. The navigators have found that there is no typical IUP student with typical problems. So, the work to help students succeed has been varied in depth and detail. Yet it has taken the time and knowledge of everyone at IUP to help students, and the results so far are proof that students are benefiting from this work.

But this success does not mean IUP is done with the work, the president said. In the next few months, the university will be doing more to ensure its goal continues to be student success. This includes more training on a key set of tools that everyone will use to help monitor and support students as they move through the streamlined curricula to achieve their goals.

Dr. Driscoll referred to the presidential goals he introduced last semester that IUP is using as tactics to follow the strategic plan. The first of the seven goals is to keep every student who comes to IUP, and the fact that the university is showing improvement is something of which IUP can be proud, he said.

Another of the seven goals is to grow IUP's reputation, and the opening of Kopchick Hall certainly does that. The new home for the university's STEM work opened on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and already the students and faculty are diving into research, experimentation, and learning that will help raise IUP's profile as a regional leader in science and mathematics.

Dr. Driscoll said, "We waited a long time for Kopchick Hall to open, and we are excited to see what will happen as we settle in and begin maximizing the opportunities it provides."

Another of the goals is to engage the internal and external IUP community in realizing the university's vision. In December, "A Conversation about IUP's Future" was held, and details about some important topics were provided. This was followed by three more conversations this spring

semester, with five more yet to come. Some of them are for faculty and staff, and others are just for students.

At these conversations, which have been led by the cognizant members of President's Cabinet, details were shared, and questions were answered about the university's financial outlook and what everyone can do to improve it; IUP's academic restructuring and what it means for students, faculty, and staff; and the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan and how it will impact everything IUP does. These conversations are critical to getting everyone on board with the work being done and the vision for IUP's future, the president said.

The academic restructuring is a plan to fit IUP's curriculum to its current and projected enrollment, simplifying the program array to match student and employer demand, reducing costs, and allowing reinvestment in key areas. It was created using input from many people across campus: faculty, students, staff, and administration. It's a good plan that has been enhanced by the teamwork of those involved, Dr. Driscoll said, and it proves the results possible when everyone unites to work for a better future. He added that he is humbled by the work done by the committees and individuals who have invested their time and knowledge to create a plan that will greatly benefit students.

The planning and organizing of the restructuring followed lots of good conversations with faculty, staff, and students, and the plan is ready to be presented at the IUP Council of Trustees meeting in May for any final approvals needed.

Speaking of facilities, Dr. Driscoll said, demolition has begun for a few buildings that are no longer useful in the university's work. The Reschini House has already been razed, and work is happening to tear down Pratt and Eicher halls, plus University Towers and the R&P Office Building. Fencing is up around Weyandt Hall, and soon demolition will begin there, transforming the footprint of the university.

A couple of weeks ago, there was a meeting with the leadership of the Community College of Allegheny County to further strengthen the partnership with IUP, building on a strong base and history of shared programs, including teacher education and business, which are key areas of workforce demand for Pennsylvania. It's part of a long tradition of work with community colleges, including Westmoreland County Community College's Indiana Center, and joint admissions agreements with many more across the state, with more in the works.

These working agreements align with what Governor Shapiro is calling his "blueprint" for higher education in Pennsylvania. The key principles of his plan are affordability, accessibility, and providing the educated workforce and citizenry that the state requires for a strong future. These are areas in which IUP and the State System have already made strong progress, Dr. Driscoll said. What is needed now is further investment in universities and students to improve higher education's standing across all states. Currently, Pennsylvania is 49th in the country in terms of higher education funding per student, a statistic that must improve if colleges, universities, and trade schools are to supply the state's workforce with skilled and educated workers.

Another of the presidential goals is to educate new student groups. One way that is being planned is with the proposed college of osteopathic medicine. The founding dean, Miko Rose, came to IUP late last year and has begun laying the groundwork for the college. Other areas of the university are also pitching in to help reach the goal of becoming the first public university in Pennsylvania to open a college of osteopathic medicine.

IUP received a great sign of the belief in this plan recently when state senator Joe Pittman announced in January that \$2 million from the state budget had been set aside to help get the medical school off the ground. That's a great sign of faith from public officials, Dr. Driscoll said, and it is greatly appreciated. Although there is more work to do on this front and a lot more work for Dean Rose, IUP is making progress and is hoping to enroll the first class of students in the fall of 2027.

Before he closed with an update on IUP Athletics, Dr. Driscoll announced that Jack Frank has been awarded the President's Medal of Distinction for his continued dedication to his alma mater. A 1958 graduate of Indiana State Teachers College, Dr. Frank is a past winner of the IUP Distinguished Alumni Award, a faculty emeritus, and a longtime supporter of all things IUP. The president's medal is the highest non-academic award IUP can bestow, and Dr. Frank is most definitely worthy of this honor, the president said. Today, the IUP Council of Trustees is also being asked to consider and approve the award of an honorary doctor of public service to Ellen Ruddock, another remarkable member of the IUP family. The award will be presented to her at May commencement.

Since the last public meeting, IUP student-athletes have continued their winter seasons, and most of the seven spring teams have begun their seasons, Dr. Driscoll reported.

Last week, four swimmers qualified for the NCAA Division II championships and will compete next week in Ohio alongside the country's best. The swimmers qualified at the PSAC championships, at which the women's team placed second and the men's team finished fifth.

Both basketball teams earned spots in the PSAC tournament and advanced to the quarterfinals before being eliminated last night.

The women's softball team won seven of its first eight games, the lacrosse team began its season this week with the lofty expectations that come with being picked second in the league in the PSAC preseason coaches' poll, and the baseball team was entering the weekend on a winning streak.

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT BE ACCEPTED.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Administration and Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the items appearing on pages 109 through 133 in the Docket Report and in Exhibits 1 through 5, which depict highlights of the Administration and Finance Division.

#### **PRESENTATION: Comments by Vice President**

Vice President Debra Fitzsimons presented action and discussion items related to the Administration and Finance Committee. She provided comments related to the general business, administrative, and financial operations of the university. She also discussed revisions to the dual-enrollment rate as well as a report on operating performances of the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex. Highlights included the following:

#### **Proposed Revised Five-Year, Priority Capital Project Spending Plan**

The committee reviewed the proposed revised five-year, priority capital project spending plan as distributed.

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE REVISED 2022-23 FIVE-YEAR, PRIORITY CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING PLAN BE ENDORSED AS DISTRIBUTED.**

**FY2023-24 Proposed Five-Year, Priority Capital Project Spending Plan**

The committee reviewed the FY2023-24 proposed five-year, priority capital project spending plan as distributed.

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE FIVE-YEAR, PRIORITY CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING PLAN BE APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED FOR SUBMISSION TO PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2024.**

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Approval of Honorary Degree**

The Academic Affairs Committee recommended the approval of an honorary doctor of public service degree to be presented to Ellen Sylves Ruddock.

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE AWARDING OF AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE DEGREE TO ELLEN SYLVES RUDDOCK AT COMMENCEMENT ON MAY 11, 2024, BE APPROVED. THE AWARDING OF THIS DEGREE HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE AND THE APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE.**

**Approval of IUP-APSCUF Representative Council Actions**

The Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the following actions, which have the endorsement of the president and the provost, be approved:

- Program revisions approved by the IUP-APSCUF Representative Council at its December 7, 2023, meeting as follows:
  - From the Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences
    - Applied Statistics Minor
  - From the Department of Career and Technical Personnel Preparation
    - Career and Technical Administrative Director Certificate
  - From the Department of Kinesiology, Health, and Sport Science
    - Athletic Training, Master of Science
    - Exercise Science, Master of Science
  - From the Department of Management
    - Business, Doctor of Philosophy
  - From the Department of Professional Studies in Education
    - Curriculum and Instruction, Doctor of Education
  - From the Department of English
    - English/Composition and Applied Linguistics, Doctor of Philosophy
  - From the Department of Sociology
    - Sociology, Master of Arts

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ACTIONS APPROVED AT THE DECEMBER 2023 MEETING OF THE IUP-APSCUF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY PRESIDENT DRISCOLL.**

Provost Lara Luetkehans provided an overview of the progress made on the IUP Academic Program Review and Restructuring process. She recapped the goals, the work completed since the December report, and the next steps in the process as IUP moves toward implementation of the academic and support area restructuring.

Next, Provost Luetkehans introduced Miko Rose, founding dean of IUP's proposed college of osteopathic medicine. Dr. Rose provided an update on funding and fundraising, outreach efforts with regional healthcare and government partners, progress toward accreditation, and recruitment of additional college of osteopathic medicine staff. Dr. Rose also shared information about a new collaborative research project between IUP and the Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center that will add significantly to the understanding of the characteristics and needs of primary care physicians who practice in rural areas. These findings will contribute to IUP's recruitment and enrollment strategy for the proposed college of osteopathic medicine and will more broadly contribute to addressing the shortage of primary care physicians in rural areas across the nation. Hilliary Creely, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, is also a collaborator on this project.

**REPORT OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

The Student Affairs Committee met today with Vice President for Student Affairs Tom Segar.

Dr. Segar provided opening remarks about the Student Affairs Division. He then introduced Roger Briscoe II, the new executive director of Student Inclusion, who provided brief comments about his appointment.

Stacy Hopkins, executive director of Undergraduate Admissions, spoke about the implications of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) delay and how IUP is supporting new students and their families. Dr. Segar then provided an overview of spring enrollment.

Samantha Goettman, associate director of Athletics and senior women's administrator, discussed two current athletic topics and their implications for IUP: the NCAA Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Legislation and the NCAA Transfer Portal.

Amber Racchini, vice provost for Student Academic Success, and Paula Stossel, strategic advisor to the president for Student Success, provided a progress update on the university's student success infrastructure and shared information about additional initiatives being implemented in the next phase of the infrastructure rollout.

**REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Today, the University Advancement Committee has one action item. It is a naming resolution for presentation and approval.

**Resolution for the Naming of the Hotel Simulation Desk in Honor of the Statler Foundation**

**WHEREAS**, the Statler Foundation was created from the estate of hotelier Ellsworth M. Statler following his death in 1928;

**WHEREAS**, the Statler Foundation supports research work and trains employees for the benefit of the hotel industry;

**WHEREAS**, Ellsworth Statler, a self-made millionaire who worked his way up from bellhop to industry legend, founded the largest premier hotel chain of his day;

**WHEREAS**, the Statler Scholarship of Excellence was established in 1997 and is awarded to students who demonstrate a high degree of academic performance and aptitude in studying the hotel management field;

**WHEREAS**, the IUP Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism, and Event Management program has been providing an exceptional education to students who are interested in pursuing a career in the field, offering specialized knowledge and skills for managing businesses within the hospitality industry;

**WHEREAS**, the program consistently enrolls more than 100 majors annually, making it the largest undergraduate hospitality program in the commonwealth;

**WHEREAS**, Ellsworth Statler once said that the hotel industry is vital to America's growth, and he wanted to open the road to success to ascending generations in the hotel industry through education;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of Trustees of Indiana University of Pennsylvania recognizes the commitment, vision, and philanthropic support of the Statler Foundation by naming the university's hotel simulation desk in its honor.

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FOR THE NAMING OF THE HOTEL SIMULATION DESK IN HONOR OF THE STATLER FOUNDATION BE APPROVED.**

Mrs. Baker invited Stephen Shiring, professor in the Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism, and Event Management program, to the front of the room to accept the resolution and to say a few words. Dr. Shiring started by thanking Mrs. Baker, the IUP Council of Trustees, and President Driscoll for recognizing the Statler Foundation for its generous donation for a hotel front desk simulation lab. The IUP program is nestled in the Eberly College of Business and is recognized regionally and nationally for the high-quality education it provides. The program can be traced back to Indiana State Normal School in 1916 and has placed students all over the country in noteworthy establishments. Dr. Shiring spoke with great pride about the program and its students' achievements, with four students having received the prestigious Statler Foundation Scholarship of Excellence, providing \$25,000 in support. Dr. Shiring closed by thanking everyone and made special mention of Sam Phillips, associate vice president for University Operations and Administrative Services; Steve Markiewicz, associate director of Planning and Construction; Amy Cook, assistant dean in the Kopchick College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Nicole Buse, assistant professor in the Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism, and Event Management program; and Christina Koren, director of Strategic Partnerships, for making the partnership happen between the Statler Foundation and IUP.

The University Advancement Division, under the leadership of Jennifer Dunsmore, interim vice president, is gaining momentum in building crucial relationships, resulting in significant outcomes. Cash donations for fiscal year 2023-24 have totaled \$2,723,868. Annual giving commitments currently total \$692,316.

Digital communications continue to be the most significant source of outreach, having more than 800,000 touchpoints with alumni and friends during the previous quarter.

Keeping a student-centered mindset, the division focused on engaging parents and students with several events, including the New Hawk Send-offs, the New Hawk Welcome, and the Alumni Legacy Breakfast, which took place during the fall semester. The IUP Ambassadors continue to be the key link in engaging with these groups. The IUP Alumni Association Board of Directors met in December and approved six Distinguished Alumni Awards. A celebration, along with the presentation of these prestigious awards, will convene on April 13, 2024.

The Office of Alumni and Constituent Engagement has restructured its staff to bridge the gap while the assistant vice president serves as the interim vice president for University Advancement. Some responsibilities have been reassigned, and the assistant director of Young Alumni and Student Engagement has transitioned to the position of interim director of Alumni and Constituent Engagement.

Reorganization continues on the 150th-anniversary campaign priorities with the guidance of the National Campaign Cabinet, along with campus partners. Campaign commitments to date total \$38,653,638.

The Office of Strategic Partnerships has provided ongoing support for the proposed college of osteopathic medicine, laying groundwork and building pipelines with crucial donors, government leaders, and healthcare partners across Pennsylvania.

Collaborations continue with Indiana Regional Medical Center while production is under way for season two of the *Rural Health Pulse* podcast, enhancing the university's outreach and engagement.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Appointment of the Nominating Committee—2024-25 Officers of the Council of Trustees**

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE FOLLOWING IUP COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS SERVE ON THE 2024-25 NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS AT THE MAY 9, 2024, PUBLIC MEETING:**

**MARK HOLMAN, CHAIR  
LAURIE KUZNESKI  
NATHAN SPADE**

### **Approval of Future Meeting Dates**

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2024-25 BE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2024  
DECEMBER 12, 2024  
MARCH 6, 2025  
MAY 8, 2025**

## **RESOLUTION SETTING THE NEXT MEETING DATE**

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES BE HELD MAY 9, 2024.**



## **ADJOURNMENT**

The following motion was approved by the IUP Council of Trustees:

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 5:48 P.M.**

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**Mrs. Joyce R. Fairman**  
**Secretary, IUP Council of Trustees**

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**On behalf of Mrs. Joyce R. Fairman**