

Feuchtenberger, Karen

From: Ammerman, Paula <PRA4@psu.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2011 5:33 PM
Subject: Communication from Chair Garban and Vice Chair Surma
Attachments: SAG JPS Follow-up re Confidentiality.pdf

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

In follow-up to recent discussions regarding confidentiality, attached please find a communication from Chair Garban and Vice Chair Surma.

In the event you are unable to open or access the attached, please advise and a print copy will be provided.

Thank you,
Paula

Paula R. Ammerman
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Board of Trustees

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The Pennsylvania State University
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DATE: November 21, 2011

FROM: Steve A. Garban
Chairman
Steve A. Garban

John P. Surma
Vice Chairman
John P. Surma

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

As you know, we recently distributed a confidentiality agreement for your consideration. Further, as we recently discussed, the confidentiality agreement we distributed was intended as a reminder and as a reaffirmation of the duties all Trustees already have.

The need to reinforce the importance of confidentiality regarding Board deliberations is in relation to Board discussions and decisions and the need to keep such matters confidential until such time as our decisions are final, and we are ready to discuss them publicly. We all have an opportunity to participate in our discussions, and we need to rely on our collective wisdom to reach the correct conclusions which we then need to stand by and support.

It is vital that the Board speak with one voice to avoid confusion and distraction from our message. As discussed on a recent Board information update call, we are concerned about leaks to anyone outside of the Board in advance of a planned announcement or action.

We are not referring to confidentiality in interviews that are part of any of the special investigations being conducted. Indeed, we encourage Board members to exercise the highest level of openness, candor and transparency in those investigations and in any other forum where public comment by Trustees is appropriate.

We hope this clarifies our intent, and we appreciate your continued support.