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Branstetter, Jennifer

From: Ammerman, Paula [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 1:44 PM
Subject: Dave Jones Message to Jeff Frantz of Patriot News

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

The below message was sent my Trustee Dave Jones to Jeff Frantz, of the Patriot News, regarding an article authored by Frantz on business and industry trustees. It is being provided for your information.

Thank you.
Paula

Jeff---I have just read your piece about the Penn State industrial trustees. I am not clear whether this is an editorial or a news story. But if a news story, I think it would have benefitted from the observations of some sitting industrial and non-industrial trustees like myself (unlike Ben Novak), had I been asked.

I think that the industrial trustee process brings to the board very accomplished individuals who Penn State would not otherwise have the benefit of serving on the board. It is true that most of these people have significant resources, and it is important to note that many of them have made substantial contributions---tens of millions of dollars, in fact---from their personal funds to benefit the university. But just as important, or more important, they bring skills and experience that we could not otherwise buy. So one of the reasons many of them rise to positions of influence on the board is because, quite simply, they are very talented.

While not saying so explicitly, your piece suggests the industrial trustees lead the rest of us around by the nose, which is incorrect. In the 15 years that I have been on the board as an alumni trustee, we have had three alumni trustees serve for multiple years as chair: Jesse Arnelle, Cynthia Baldwin and Steve Garban. It is also worth noting that all of the industrial trustees during those 15 years have been alumni of Penn State and have, without compensation, spent a great deal of their time, effort and resources giving back to their university.

So I think we can be justly proud of their contribution, and they should receive credit for it rather than criticism.

Dave Jones