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From: marianne alexander <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 4:29 PM
To: Peter Khoury; Anne Riley; Samuel Hayes; Boots Heatherington; Tomalis, Ronald
Cc: Damon R. Sims; ymg100 [REDACTED]
Subject: Committee Meeting May 29
Attachments: Trustee Award for Teaching Innovation.docx

Dear Committee Members:

Because of the long holiday weekend coming up, I'm sending you the information today that you will need for next Tuesday's phone call at 2:30 p.m.

That's Tuesday, May 29, the day after Memorial Day.

We have from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for the call, but my aim is to keep the meeting closer to an hour.

Here are the topics that we need to address:

- Shared Governance as the topic for our next committee meeting (July) - we want to talk about how we want to approach topic so basic to understanding how higher education institutions work and make it relevant to the work of our committee
- Proposal for Trustee Award for Innovative Teaching - see attachment
- Hazing - I've asked Damon to brief us on what's happening at Penn State from his perspective. We've limited this to ten minutes because this issue is a big one and could eclipse the other topics we must address.
- Student debt issue - Responding to the concerns raised by a member of the board, I asked Vice Chair Peter Khoury to gather information on this issue and we'd like to briefly bring you up to date on how we might handle this topic.

Below you will find the phone number and the access code for Tuesday's call.

866-208-4552

Access Code: 6388783

Have a safe and happy holiday weekend! Look forward to our meeting on Tuesday.

Marianne

[REDACTED] (cell)

Proposal to Create a Trustees Award for Innovative Teaching Concept Draft: May 24, 2012

At its May 2012 meeting, the Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life (AA/SL) focused on the total learning experience of students. Our guest expert and presenter was Dr. Patrick Teranzini, Distinguished Professor and Senior Scientist Emeritus of Penn State's Center for the Study of Higher Education. This proposal for a **Trustees Award for Innovative Teaching** was inspired by his presentation to the AA/SL Committee.

Background:

Pat Teranzini's review of the research of the past 30 years clearly tells us that the college education experience, both inside and outside the classroom, significantly impacts students' development in a variety of important ways. It is the students' **total learning** experience that is critical, whether they are learning from a lecture, an assigned reading, from each other, through research collaboration with their professors, from their internships and service learning experiences, or in their leadership roles in student organizations. Dr. Taranzini recommended that higher education institutions create incentives for faculty members to be entrepreneurial in finding new ways to offer learning experiences/opportunities for students beyond the traditional lecture, reading and discussion models. This **Trustees Award for Innovative Teaching** could offer such an incentive.

In the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) materials we received at our May meeting from Damon Sims, we were informed that one of the key principles for ensuring educational quality by university governing boards is a focus on the **total educational experience of students**, not limiting our attention to traditional classroom activity. The proposed award would underscore this focus by our Board.

Why this Award is Important at this Time:

Now more than ever, our Board of Trustees needs to demonstrate that we are first and foremost about ensuring educational excellence at Penn State. This award will communicate that we value Penn State faculty as central to our enterprise and want to reward and recognize creative and innovative teaching that enriches the total educational experience of students at Penn State.

This proposed teaching award, if adopted and developed, will be a “deliverable” that carries the message that we are focused on what's most important at Penn State: a quality education for our students. Students and faculty are clearly focused on learning and teaching, moving on from the crisis in which we have been mired. Action by the board in this regard will show that we too are moving forward where it counts: continuing to pursue educational excellence at Penn State.

Some time ago Trustees sent an important message with the creation of the Trustee scholarships. This action was tangible evidence that we cared about affordability and access for students who want to come to Penn State. While this continues to be a high priority for this board, it's time to send a strong message that we care equally about the quality of our students' education by rewarding creative and innovative teaching that enriches students' educational experience at Penn State.

If the Committee supports the idea of proposing such an award, it will first be presented to the board leadership before going to the full board. Prior to its implementation, this award will have to be carefully differentiated from other fellowships and awards available to faculty members. In addition, considerable consultation with faculty and administrators will be needed to further develop the criteria to be used to select recipients of the **Trustees Award for Innovative Teaching**