

**CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of the Quarterly Public Meeting Held  
Thursday, September 20, 2007  
1:00 P.M.**

***Duckrey Social Services Building, The World Cultures Center***

**Council of Trustees  
Attending**

Mr. Robert W. Bogle, *Chairman*  
Mr. Dongkyu Bak  
Ms. Lynette Brown-Sow,  
*Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee*  
Mr. Gary N. Horton  
Sen. Vincent Hughes  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Patterson  
Mr. Samuel Patterson,  
*Chair of Finance and Administrative  
Services Committee*  
Mr. Robert Traynham,  
*Chair of the University Relations Committee*

**Council of Trustees  
Absent**

Ms. Lorna Horsey,  
*Chair of the Student Affairs Committee  
(Present for 1<sup>st</sup> Session)*  
Mr. Rob Wonderling

**Administration**

Dr. Michelle R. Howard-Vital, *President*  
Dr. Kenoye Eke, *Provost/Vice President for  
Academic and Student Affairs*  
Dr. Charles Colbert, *Interim Vice President  
for Finance and Administration*  
Dr. Valerie Epps, *Associate Provost for  
Student Services*

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With a quorum present and notice of the meeting duly exercised and mailed per the Bylaws, Mr. Robert W. Bogle, Chairman opened the meeting at 1:22 p.m. Chairman Bogle apologized on behalf of the Council for tardiness.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 22, 2007**

Rev. Dr. Joseph Patterson made a motion to approve the above minutes. Ms. Lynette Brown-Sow seconded the motion, **which was approved unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Prince Muhammad, Student, distributed materials to the Council. Mr. Muhammad expressed gratitude with regard to the Presidential selection process and requested the Council begin another search for an Associate Provost and further announced a petition being circulated amongst the students. Mr. Muhammad discussed the judicial process and reported on students that have been removed from the residence halls. More specifically, Mr. Muhammad reported on specific circumstances of two football students that have been expelled from the resident halls and further requested the use of SGCA funds to house the students in hotels.

Mr. Muhammad reported on conditions of students in the classroom and further reported freshman being placed in courses that they should not be in. Mr. Muhammad stated his report is about accountability and not personal.

Chairman Bogle clarified the report made by Mr. Muhammad.

Mr. Muhammad reported on the document that was previously distributed. Mr. Traynham asked where the document originated from and what does it represent. Mr. Muhammad reported the document was an index of funding sources received from Mr. Wesley Plummer, Bookstore Manager. Mr. Muhammad asked Council to turn to page 14 of the document and questioned where the amount of reserves. Mr. Muhammad reported he has asked for the amount of auxiliary dollars. Chairman Bogle asked for clarification and Mr. Muhammad requested to be informed of the amount of SGCA dollars as he had not been informed of the budget. Ms. Brown-Sow requested clarification of the 503 (c) SGCA dollars. Dr. Colbert reported the SGCA sets their budget. Mr. Traynham clarified that there are two separate entities – SGCA and the University. Chairman Bogle clarified that SGCA prepares its own budget that is approved by the University.

Chairman Bogle stated that as it relates to the Associate Provost, the University has a President and further requested the audience welcome Dr. Howard-Vital on her official first day. (Audience stood to applaud). Chairman Bogle encouraged the community to be supportive of the President and give the President the opportunity to make appropriate assessments. Chairman Bogle reported Dr. Howard-Vital has reached out to the Council in assessing the University and further reported personnel decisions will be made by the President, upon determination.

Chairman Bogle stated that as it relates to the first year students the semester is three weeks old and further expressed his confidence in the President and Academic Affairs to address student conduct appropriately.

In regards to the University's finances, Chairman Bogle state the University has been struggling with its budgets and further charged the community with allowing the President 30 days to assess the budget situation. Chairman Bogle further reported Council will reconvene on November 8<sup>th</sup> and the matters in question will be resolved.

Mr. Muhammad expressed gratitude in opening the forum for students to speak to the Council and further reported being discouraged by previous and present administrations.

Addressing the community, Chairman Bogle stated the outlook one has depends upon the view from which standing. Chairman Bogle further encouraged the community to invest in the University and reported being encouraged by the reputation that Dr. Howard-Vital brings to Cheyney University. Chairman Bogle reported on his encouragement that the University will be better than it has ever been.

Mr. Che Colter, student, reported the University has welcomed Dr. Howard-Vital with open arms. Mr. Colter reported on the efforts of Dr. Howard-Vital as it relates to the residence halls and public safety. Mr. Colter reported that Dr. Epps is very supportive to the students. Mr. Colter reported the Marriott International and Best Western are not opposed to working with the University on building a bed and breakfast on campus. Mr. Colter questioned why the University did not hold any activities for 9/11 and further reported students would like to see an annual event. Mr. Colter requested that an invitation be made to Rep. Tom Killiam (Delaware County) to join the Council of Trustees.

Chairman Bogle expressed gratitude for the comments and further indicated the diversity of viewpoints is inspirational. Chairman Bogle further stated our differences will bring us together. Chairman Bogle acknowledged the suggestions and stated the idea of a 9/11 is one well taken. Chairman Bogle further reported Council does not determine who sits on the Board as the Governor makes the determination. Chairman Bogle reported the nominations are made to the Senate as the nominee must have senate confirmation. Chairman Bogle further reported that both Sen. Hughes (Democrat) and Sen. Wonderling (Republican) both sit on the board.

Sen. Hughes reported that Rep. Killian should voice his interest to the Governor and the leadership in Harrisburg.

Mr. George Bush and Mr. Fawazz Fields, Students, approached the podium. Mr. Bush reported on SGCA accountability and discussed the U.S. Government system of checks and balances. Mr. Bush further reported there is not such a system at Cheyney (SGCA). Chairman Bogle questioned problems in a 2-month old government. Mr. Bush reported the current structure of SGCA has holes, which a President of SGCA can take advantage of the SGCA constitution. Mr. Traynham asked if the SGCA has a current constitution. Mr. Bush indicated that there is; however, the constitution calls for a Board of Governors that does not exist. Mr. Bush reported the SGCA budget does exist and was approved as the SGCA Executive Board worked on the budget. Mr. Bush requested the SGCA needs to implement a stronger level of checks and balances in order to enforce accountability.

Chairman Bogle reported the SGCA operates autonomously and governed by the constitution or by-laws. Chairman Bogle recommended requesting a meeting with the President if there is belief that there is something that is in conflict with the constitution of the student government and negatively impacts on the students. Dr. Howard-Vital reported a meeting with the SGCA was on the calendar.

In regards to tragedies such as Jena 6 and Katrina, Mr. Bush reported the University has not taken a proactive stand to support the students. Mr. Bush reported that in the past it has been the student organizations that have taken that stance and further reported student participation but not with the full support of the University. Mr. Bush recommended that in times of tragedy, the University show support. Chairman Bogle requested clarification to the request and further asked if the students were aware of the constraints that the University is under. Chairman Bogle indicated that Mr. Bush could have called the President and asked to talk about Jena 6. Chairman Bogle expressed pleasure with the students concerned about what is happening in Louisiana. On behalf of the Council, Chairman Bogle acknowledged the comment.

Mr. Bush reported that the Administration (Dr. Howard-Vital, Dr. Eke, Dr. Epps, and Dr. Colbert) is working hard and being diligent, but needs to take the time to speak with the students and further expressed gratitude towards the present administration. Mr. Bush stated the honor and integrity of the University falls on the community and not on the administration. Mr. Bush reported a SGCA meeting at 5:30PM in Vaux Logan.

Mr. Fields extended an invitation to Homecoming Week– September 23<sup>rd</sup> to Council of Trustees on behalf of the SGCA.

Mr. D'Angelo Velez, student, welcomed the President and expressed gratitude towards Dr. Epps. Mr. Velez reported he is a transfer student. Mr. Velez reported progress is being made on campus and further reported a lack of progress in the past.

Chairman Bogle expressed gratitude towards those that had addressed Council with their concerns.

#### **REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Bogle welcomed the President, Dr. Howard-Vital.

Chairman Bogle requested approval of the meeting dates. A motion was made by Mr. Horton and seconded by Mr. Traynham. Mrs. Brown-Sow reported a public meeting is needed in order to approve the graduate students. Chairman Bogle noted for the record the need for a public meeting to approve the graduate students.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Howard-Vital expressed pleasure in being at Cheyney University. Dr. Howard-Vital reported Cheyney University as her 8<sup>th</sup> institution of higher learning and further reported *The Rains* and *The Living Legend*. Dr. Howard-Vital reported being humbled by the remarkable leaders that have come through Cheyney University and further mentioned Fannie Jackson Coppin, Rebecca Cole, Octavious Catto, Dr. Leslie Pickney Hill, Mr. Robert Bogle, Mercer Redcross, and Sam Patterson. Dr. Howard-Vital stated the University has brought unbelievable and incomparable leaders. Dr. Howard-Vital reported the institution is a national treasure and further stated that similar to all Americans, Cheyney University has had ups and downs; however, the questions for the presidency is: what is next for Cheyney University – what is Cheyney University going to be like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – how are we going to prepare our graduates?

Dr. Howard-Vital reported talking to the community over the last few months and further reported Chairman Bogle had given advice to take three months to read and learn about the University, which the President reported was excellent advice.

Dr. Howard-Vital indicated a need to have a conversation to define our centers of excellence – what are centers of excellence? Dr. Howard-Vital reported these are areas where we as University will succeed and further reported on some of the ideas for centers of excellence. Dr. Howard-Vital reported on the HBCU conference in Washington, D.C. and further reported the presidents indicated the need to establish centers that reflect the needs of the region and the nation.

Dr. Howard-Vital reported a long journey to Cheyney University. Dr. Howard-Vital stated being eager to work with the Council to make sure the University has the absolute best leaders that this region, this state, this country needs. Dr. Howard-Vital pledges to be a servant leader and willingness to work side by side to make sure Cheyney University continues to be an American treasure.

Chairman Bogle reported on the presidential search process and acknowledged rationale behind Dr. Howard-Vital as the search committee's choice for president.

## **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Mr. Samuel Patterson, Chair of the Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee, requested Dr. Charles Colbert, Vice President for Finance and Administration, present the report of the Committee.

**ACTION ITEM NO. 1** – Mr. Patterson requested approval of Agency Purchases over \$9,999.99. Ms. Brown-Sow made a motion to approve the Agency Purchases over \$9,999.99. Chairman Bogle seconded the motion, **which was unanimously approved.**

**ACTION ITEM NO. 2** – Dr. Colbert requested approval of the University's budget, which is 9.3% over the previous year's budget. Mr. Traynham questioned if the budget was balanced and Dr. Colbert reported a balanced budget. Mr. Patterson requested a motion to approve the University's budget. Ms. Brown-Sow made a motion to approve the University's Budget. Mr. Traynham seconded the motion, **which was unanimously approved.**

**INFORMATION ITEM NO. 1** – Dr. Colbert reported on the University's investments.

Mr. Patterson announced the conclusion of the Committee's report.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Ms. Lynette Brown-Sow, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, requested Dr. Kenoye Eke, Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs present the report of the Committee and further reported the Committee has met.

**INFORMATION ITEM NO. 1** – Dr. Eke reported on initial accreditation matters.

Dr. Eke introduced Dr. Godlove Fonjweng to the Council and reported Dr. Fonjweng will replace Dr. Joseph Paige and serve as Interim Special Assistant to the Provost. Dr. Eke further reported on the role of Dr. Fonjweng to the University.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dr. Valerie Epps, Associate Provost for Student Services reported on a grant received from the James Hughes Scholarship program in the amount of \$610,000, which will allow 54 students to attend Cheyney University. Dr. Epps reported these will be summer bridge students who will also be involved in a week long technology boot camp and will learn computer information skills. Dr. Epps further reported the students will spend 2 days in a college transition summit and will see other campuses. Some of the students will be attending other universities. Dr. Epps reported the initiative was started by Senator Hughes and James Hughes (beloved and respected leader and a founder leader of the PASSHE BOG).

Dr. Epps reported on the Career & Professional Development Center and further reported the development of a report of how the employers view the quality of a Cheyney student. Dr. Epps announced pleasure with the outcome of the survey as it relates to student quality and further reported the number of job opportunities available to Cheyney students being over 8,000. Dr. Epps reported that the University has not solicited all of its vendors but will. Mr. Traynham questioned the success rate of those that have applied for jobs and Ms. Marcia Robinson, Director of Career & Professional Development reported 120 surveys were collected at graduation and further reported that based on national data Cheyney graduates are ahead. Mr. Traynham questioned how do we publicize the center exists. Ms. Robinson reported various means (flyers, etc.) and further reported word of mouth has been effective. Ms. Robinson reported moving to Marcus Foster will be instrumental and reported on the challenges faced by the center.

Dr. Epps reported the student judicial process was approved by Harrisburg and further reported the University has a zero tolerance policy. Dr. Epps reported on the University's right to suspend students from the residence halls and further reported the decisions are not made in isolation but in conjunction with Dr. Eke, Dr. Colbert, and the President. Dr. Epps reported parents are informed and students have an appeal policy. Chairman Bogle stated the Council acknowledges Dr. Epps as well versed in the rules of the University and PASSHE and further reported the Council's support of Dr. Epps and trust in judgment of the President and staff.

Dr. Eke reported the state system has a policy against publishing SAT data and further reported the information is not available. Dr. Eke reported Mr. Harding Faulk, Director of Institutional Research will need to call each institution to obtain the information for Council. Dr. Eke reported 77% of our students are in state and 23% are out of state and further reported a very small group of international students.

**UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

Mr. Robert Traynham, Chair of the University Relations Committee, reported the Committee met. Mr. Robert Traynham requested that Mr. Lawrence Green, Director of Sponsored Programs present the report of the Committee.

**Information Item No. 1** – Mr. Green reported \$3,112,000 in funding received to date. 69% are public and 31% are private as of July 1. Ms. Brown-Sow asked if any of the grants from the previous year are rolling over. Mr. Green responded only multi-year grants. Mr. Green further reported the grants that have been reported are grants that must be applied for each year (such as ACT 101).

**Information Item No. 2** – Mr. Green reported on the Tom Joyner campaign and Ephren Taylor gift.

**Information Item No 3** – Mr. Green reported on alumni matters: Presidential welcoming reception; Tom Joyner Sky Show; Cheyney Foundation Golf Classic; the 25 for 25 grassroots campaign; Brick campaign; homecoming activities; and the African American Museum's 170<sup>th</sup> Celebration exhibit.

**Information Item No. 4** – Mr. Green reported on the activities in the department.

**Information Item No. 5** – Mr. Green reported on the revisions to the report to take into account the full collaborative nature of obtaining grants.

Mr. Horton made a motion to accept all of the Committee's report. Mr. Traynham seconded the motion, **which was unanimously approved.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Bogle acknowledged the presence of Mr. Paul Turner, President National Alumni Association, and acknowledged the presence of Ms. Barbara Daniel-Cox, Alumna.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Robert W. Bogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Samuel Patterson seconded the motion, **which passed unanimously approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes Approved

T. Bernette Wright  
Recorder

Robert L. Traynham, II  
Secretary to the Council