

**Penn State Harrisburg  
Faculty Senate**

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Madlyn Hanes Executive Conference Room C300 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- A. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING  
Approval of Senate Minutes February 21, 2017 Appendix "A"
- B. APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
Approval of Minutes, February 16, 2017 Appendix "B"
- C. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SENATE  
Enrollment Management and Outreach Report  
Ozge Aybat and Indrit Hoxha Appendix "C"
- D. REPORT OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT
- E. COMMENTS BY THE CHANCELLOR
- F. COMMENTS FROM THE UNIV. COUNCIL REP
- G. NEW BUSINESS
- H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- I. NEW LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
- J. LEGISLATIVE REPORTS
- K. FORENSIC BUSINESS
- L. ADVISORY/CONSULTATIVE REPORTS
- M. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COLLEGE

**NOTE:** The next meeting of the Penn State Harrisburg Faculty Senate is Tuesday, April 18, 2017 – 11:30am -1:00pm in the Madlyn Hanes Executive Conference Room.

THE CAPITAL COLLEGE  
JOINT MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE & ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
February 21, 2017

**Attendees:**

*Capital College Senators Present:* J.B. Adams, J. Gibbs, J. Hirt, P. Kavanaugh, G. Mazis, M. Mross, B. Ran, L. Rhen, P. Swan, P. Thompson, D. Witwer, S. Yilmaz

*Administrators Present:* O. Ansary, R. Bachnak, S. Gal, P. Julnes, M. Kulkarni, S. Schappe, C. Surra, M. Kulkarni

*Invited Guests:* A. Banerjee, J. Keagy, G. Morçöl

B. Ran, Faculty Senate President, opened the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

**A. Minutes Approval for Faculty Senate Meeting**

Ran requested discussion and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2017 Senate meeting. A motion was made by Swan/Kavanaugh to approve the minutes, and they were unanimously approved.

**B. Minutes Approval for Academic Affairs Meeting**

Ran requested discussion and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2017 Academic Affairs committee meeting. A motion was made by Swan/Hirt to approve the minutes, and they were unanimously approved.

**C. Communications to the President**

None

**D. Report of the Senate President**

- Ran provided an update on issues pertaining to the recent University Senate election. Last academic year, we moved to an electronic voting method, without issue. This year, issues were raised regarding confidentiality and the ability to vote as other people. By working with the University Senate, Senate Executive Committee, and the Chancellor, we were able to address the issues and the ballot was run again. Thank you to J. Gibbs for working on a solution within Qualtrics. Swan stated that the new system is more secure and encourages greater participation.
- Congratulations to our new University Senate senators, Paul Thompson and Martha Strickland.
- Three nominations have been received for the alternate ombudsperson, from SBA, LIB, and BSED. Discussion will be held at a future senate meeting.
- Nominations are now being sought for the Capital College Senate President-Elect.

## **E. New Business**

- S. Gal and J. Keagy were present to present the new leadership development program that is being created on campus. The goal of the Leadership Development Initiative is to develop leadership skills, support succession planning and build connections within our community for new or emerging faculty and staff leaders. A timeline was presented. They are currently working with the Center for Survey Research to create the GAP analysis. Faculty and staff will be nominated for the first cohort in April, with program development occurring over the summer, with program roll out in September 2017. Additional considerations may be given regarding just-in-time training in May (for those effected by VRP), a mentoring program for faculty and staff, leadership development vs. leadership enrichment, and institutional knowledge transfer.
- G. Morçöl, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, provided a mid-semester update on the committee's activities.
  - Three subcommittees were created to address the various charges of the committee. The first subcommittee was tasked with reviewing the current policies on (1) the P and R designations of graduate faculty, (2) whether these designations relate to the FT1 and tenure-track faculty statuses, and (3) the eligibility of the P faculty to teach 500-level courses.
    - A survey of the school directors revealed that there are differences in the policies and practices regarding FT1 faculty members and P and R designations among the schools at the Harrisburg campus. There are also differences between the Harrisburg and UP campuses. More specifically there are differences in the following.
      - Whether or not FT1 faculty members teach 500-level courses
      - Involvement in research activities (not clear whether there are different research expectations of FT1 faculty in different schools)
      - Applications of P and R designations
      - There is commonality among the schools that FT1 faculty members are expected to do service.
      - A member of the graduate council visited a committee meeting and shared information about FT1 and P and R designations. Committee members learned that there still are unclear areas in the university's policies regarding faculty designations.
      - Recommendation: The university administration should clarify the expectations for tenure-track and FT1 faculty members and the P and R designations for faculty members. The college administration should clarify such expectations and designations for the Harrisburg campus.
  - Subcommittee 2 explored the impact of larger class sizes on faculty and support staff. Recommendation: A quick poll of each of the five (5) Schools revealed that each has a different approach to large class size relative to course load and compensation. We recommend that a uniform approach be used across the Schools. They also examined the final exam schedule. The overload arrangement does not appear to be working, but also there needs to be reinforcement of University policy regarding final

exams and when they may be given. It is not clear the committee's recommendations have been implemented. Exams do not correspond with days that the class is normally offered, and they are often not in the same classroom. **Recommendation:** We recommend that having a uniform exam schedule, which aligns with the regular class time/day, be explored. **Recommendation:** We ask for a reevaluation of the policy of grades being due by 48 hours after the last final. Different exams take longer to grade and the University should take that into consideration. Since these are University policies, there is little that can be done on our campus. It was recommended that the issue be taken to the University Senate.

**Welcoming environment for FT1 and FT2 faculty members:**

- The 2015 Campus Community Assessment shows that FT1 faculty members have a series of concerns about their statuses in the college: accessing resources, sense of being less valued than tenure-track colleagues, issues related to compensation (i.e., raises), interpersonal relationships, and little or no potential for advancement. **Recommendation:** Solicit best practices from each school to share with each other. This could be accomplished this semester (Spring 17).
- The 2014-2015 recommendations are that schools should offer flexible orientations that will help clarify roles and expectations and accommodate the varied schedules of part time faculty. **Resolved:** Adjunct orientations have been offered during various times including Saturdays and during the evening hours for the past two (2) years.
- The 2014-2015 committee also recommended that a comprehensive website be created for new faculty resources and faculty socials has been implemented but not each school keeps this up to date and resources are not linked which means that the information is out of date. **Being Resolved:** An onboarding/orientation committee is in place (2016-2017) to reimagine and revamp new employee (faculty and staff) onboarding and orientation, which includes a new webpage devoted to seamless onboarding and links to resources.
- The 2014-2015 committee also recommended a faculty lounge to promote collaboration and interdisciplinary research and teaching. This would also address the inclusion of FT1s. **Recommendation:** While this has been asked and answered, it is the opinion of the 2016-2017 Faculty Affairs Committee that this be reopened for reconsideration.
- Subcommittee 3 also reviewed the inclusion of patents in the promotion and tenure evaluations within the school. Only SSET guidelines include patents among the criteria to be considered for tenure and promotion decisions. None of the other schools find patents a relevant criterion. **Resolved**
- Summer pay for faculty members was also examined. The rules and rates for faculty compensation for summer teaching are stated in the Academic Guidelines and Policies F-2 (Summer Teaching Compensation for Teaching Faculty) and the Academic Guidelines and Policies F-14 (Faculty Salary Supplements). **Recommendation:** There are issues of

fairness in the summer payment schedule based on the number of students in a class. We recommend that this principle be reviewed.

This is a budgetary issue and our faculty are compensated more than other colleges.

**F. Comments by the Chancellor**

- Kulkarni commented that the visit with Provost Jones went well.
- The University is beginning to standardize and increase non-academic support services. For example, police services will become centralized, and will run as one unit. There may be initial problems during the implementation phase. All questions and concerns should be directed to Kulkarni or Ansary.
- The University is examining processing of H-1 Visas and there may be some changes.

**G. Comments by the Academic Council**

- Gal – A grant seeking workshop will be held from May 10-12, 2017 at Penn State Altoona. The Office of Research and Outreach will support any faculty member that would like to attend.
- Bachnak – Bachnak appreciates the progress being made on the FT1 issues. Kulkarni noted that there has been a deliberate pause in the process as the Deans are looking to implement the changes. The SSET strategic plan is progressing well. SSET is in the process of submitting two new Master's programs in Mechanical and Civil Engineering. All are invited to participate in the senior capstone presentations on May 5, 2017.
- Surra – Progress is being made on their strategic plan. Intentional undergraduate recruitment for the undecided students is going well. BSED is working on curriculum development and collaboration across programs. Surra was concerned about a recent position posting for an FT1 position, where she was instructed to remove “research” from the position description. Further clarification is needed on FT1 functions university wide. BSED will be hard hit with the VRP as well as issues with P & R programs.
- Julnes – SPA is having a great year. They organized NECoPA in the fall and had many faculty and students participate. They have had many panels and speakers regarding the recent election, and look to have additional discussions in the future. Many faculty and students have expressed concern regarding the current administration's stance on immigration and academic freedom.
- McGuiggan – The library is having a successful year. The library recently held an open educational resources summit focusing on textbook costs and the increased burden on students. Important conversations were held regarding encouraging faculty to use Open Educational Resources. Currently, the library has many of the more costly textbooks on reserve for students to use for 2 hours at a time in the library. Library gate numbers have increased this academic year as well.
- Ansary – Our campus is now using the same EI as University Park. We are actually using a higher EI for international students than University Park. Our applications are up 27%, but the University as a whole is down 29%.

**H. Comments from the University Council Representative**

- Wilson was not available to attend the meeting.

**I. Unfinished Business**

None

**J. New Legislative Business**

None

**K. Legislative Reports**

None

**L. Forensic Business**

None

**M. Advisory/Consultative Reports**

None

**N. Comments and Recommendations for the Good of the College**

Morçöl posed questions relating to enrollment of international students that may apply to schools in larger cities, since they may be more tolerant. Kulkarni noted that at this time there is no real evidence regarding our students. The majority of our students are from China, India, Korea, and Nigeria, which are not listed on the executive order. We will be positioning ourselves as a welcoming campus and Kulkarni has heard nothing negative from local representatives.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Penn State Harrisburg Faculty Senate scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2017, in the Madlyn Hanes Executive Conference Room (C300 Olmsted) beginning at 11:30 a.m.

/slp

**MINUTES  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
Thursday, February 16, 2017  
11:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

**Members present:** Gina Brelsford, Rick Ciocci, Adam Gustafson, Bernadette Lear, Martha Strickland, Juliette Tolay and Premal Vora

**Non-voting ex-officio member:** Peter Idowu

**Invited Guest:** Jennifer Sliko

1. Ciocci called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.
2. The minutes from the January 19, 2017 meeting, were posted in BOX for review. A motion to approve was made by Gustafson/Tolay and they were unanimously approved.
3. Review of Programs and Courses

**ENGL 430 The American Renaissance – Simon Bronner**

For 15 years, the American Studies program (Capital College) has offered a 400-level course on the American Renaissance every Fall semester. However, since the program lacks a course on the American Renaissance, it has been forced to offer the course as "AM ST 472: Topics in American Literature." AM ST 472 is a very general course that is not specific to the American Renaissance. English has a course that is perfectly suited to the goal of teaching undergraduate majors about the American Renaissance: ENGL 430. For this reason, Capital College's American Studies program wishes to have an American Studies course that is cross-listed with the existing English course. A motion to approve was made by Lear/Brelsford, and was unanimously approved.

**AM ST 491 American Studies Perspectives - Simon Bronner**

1. The purpose of the course to represent American Studies perspectives and a capstone experience for majors is more clearly designated by the new title and description.
2. Another course AM ST 412 American Eras has a similar title and causes confusion for students and advisers who think that 491 is a historical course. 491W is designed as a course synthesizing different approaches and perspectives in the distinctive field of American Studies.
3. The new title and description emphasizes the coherence of American Studies as a distinct intellectual pursuit rather than an unorganized conglomeration of different disciplines.

Bronner was questioned about consultation from the other campuses that are offering this course. He has them via e-mail and will have them added to the administrative comments. A motion to approve, with said addition, was made by Lear/Brelsford, and was unanimously approved.

**Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering – Richard Ciocci and Ray Bachnak  
Masters of Science in Civil Engineering – Shirley Clark and Ray Bachnak**

It was agreed to take the two proposals as a package.

The School of Science, Engineering, and Technology is proposing the addition of a MS in Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering as part of their strategic plan, as well as

interest from businesses and industries in the area looking for students graduates from these two fields.

The MS ME and MS CE degree program will provide students with an educational foundation that prepares them for leadership roles in engineering research and product design/development. Students will receive broad scientific knowledge, and exposure to modern analytical techniques that will enable them to formulate engineering problems and perform analysis and synthesis, which are necessary in the successful practice of mechanical engineering.

There will be three subspecialties within the MS ME degree: design, thermal fluids, and material science.

There will be three subspecialties within the MS CE degree: structural, water resources, and transportation.

SSET has offered a master's in engineering program (M.Eng.) in Engineering Science (ESC) for many years. The Masters of Engineering degree was designed and targeted primarily to meet the needs of full-time career engineers in the south central PA region in order to support the crucial need for manpower development in engineering research and product development. The program has been a success and continues to serve the intended purpose. In recent years the M.Eng program has attracted a new demographic category of applicants seeking to pursue a master's degree with a strong research component, full-time or part-time.

A motion to approve the new programs, was made by Brelsford/Vora, and were unanimously approved.

4. The following meeting dates have been selected for the Spring semester:

March 16, 2017 11:30 W207

April 20, 2017 11:30 W207

**Adjournment** at 12:00 pm

**Faculty Senate Enrollment Management and Outreach Committee Report**  
*March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

<b>Voting Members</b>					
<b>Faculty Name and Rank</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Room #</b>	<b>Tele. Ext.</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Ozge Aybat (Asst. Prof.) <b>Chair</b>	2/2	SBA	E355	6155	<a href="mailto:Oua3@psu.edu">Oua3@psu.edu</a>
Indrit Hoxha (Assoc. Prof.) <b>Associate Chair</b>	2/2	SBA	E355	6344	<a href="mailto:Ixh16@psu.edu">Ixh16@psu.edu</a>
Karen Buhr (Lect.)	2/2	SPA	W160p	6051	<a href="mailto:Kjb44@psu.edu">Kjb44@psu.edu</a>
John Haddad (Professor)	1/2	HUM	W356	6196	<a href="mailto:Jrh36@psu.edu">Jrh36@psu.edu</a>
Jonathan Ivy (Asst. Prof.)	1/2	BSED	W311	6063	<a href="mailto:Jwi106@psu.edu">Jwi106@psu.edu</a>
Wanda Kunkle (Lect.)	2/2	SET	W256g	6351	<a href="mailto:Wmk12@psu.edu">Wmk12@psu.edu</a>
Emily Mross (Asst. Lib.)	1/2	LIB	204a	6130	<a href="mailto:Elm43@psu.edu">Elm43@psu.edu</a>
Xu Xu (Assoc. Prof.)	1/2	BSED	W311	6035	<a href="mailto:Xux10@psu.edu">Xux10@psu.edu</a>
	1	SGA			
<b>Non-Voting Ex Officio Members</b>					
Director of CE, Dean's representative		CE	EAB	6517	
<b>Guests:</b>					
<b>Senate Liaison – Glen Mazis</b>	1	SEN	W356	6202	<a href="mailto:Gam7@psu.edu">Gam7@psu.edu</a>

**2016 – 2017 Charges:**

- Standing Charge: monitors and makes recommendations to the Capital College Senate regarding enrollment services, outreach, marketing, continuing education, and distance learning activities of the College; reviews the College marketing plan and advises the Capital College Senate regarding the plan, the planning process, and future directions for the campus; reviews and recommends policies, in co-operation with the Committee on Academic Affairs, to ensure that educational evaluation procedures are in place to assess all distance learning activities;
- Conduct focus groups with Faculty & Staff living in Middletown & Harrisburg areas in Fall 2016 to hear about their perspective on impact and outreach of PSH.
- Review the last 5 years' end-of-year reports of this committee to examine the implementation of the suggested changes / recommendations in the end-of-year reports (and the discrepancy in implementing recommendations)
- Review the duties of the committee specified in the Constitution / By-law to make suggestions on adding, deleting, or maintaining duties

## **Achievements**

### **A) Outreach:**

-This year, the priority of the committee was to find ways to get closer with the Middletown community.

-We decided to run an online survey, instead of a focus group, with the Penn State Harrisburg Faculty/Staff living around Middletown area to hear about their perspectives on the relationship of our school with Middletown.

-We first applied for an approval and obtained the permission to run such a research from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at University Park on October 24, 2016.

-We designed an online survey on Qualtrics and drafted the email to be sent to our participants in November 2016.

-We launched our outreach survey on November 16<sup>th</sup> and sent an email to 80 Faculty & Staff living in the Middletown area. The list of email addresses of these Faculty and Staff was provided by the Office of Human Resources.

-We closed our survey in January 2017 and analyzed the data in February 2017. Please see the Appendix for detailed information on the survey results.

-We invited the President of the Middletown Borough, Benjamin Kapenstein, a former Penn State Harrisburg graduate, to hear his perspective, to find ways to get closer with the Middletown community, and to discuss some of the findings of our survey results.

-We met with the President of the Middletown Borough on February 28, 2017.

-We shared the summary of our outreach survey findings with him. He confirmed the school's economic contribution to Middletown, and was very enthusiastic and grateful for the school's contributions to help build the train station and the bridge.

-He indicated that the majority of the residents are happy with the presence of Penn State Harrisburg and with having students in the town, although there are a few who are not.

-He is aware of the complaints about speeding, careless driving, and partying, however he indicated that they are taking measures to prevent them, students are usually respectful and there are not many incidences.

-He is willing and supportive of providing more options to students in the town such as a coffee shop.

-He liked the suggestions created based on our survey results. During the meeting, we also talked about:

- Having lectures at Historical Society
- Using their Elks Theater for some school events
- Inviting Middletown residents to the plays of the school – which would require suspended enforcement for parking during event times, or providing designated parking areas and signs around the campus for Middletown residents

-He recommended us to share the school events with the Borough as well (not only with Press & Journal) so that they can spread the word through social media. We will talk to our Marketing Research Department and see if they can include the Borough in their communications.

-He wants to increase the interaction between the school and the town by:

- Coming to our New Student Orientation with the Mayor and providing some information about the town to the new comers
- Having a student and a faculty representative in their Board
- Providing internship positions for Penn State Harrisburg students in the Borough
- Inviting Penn State Harrisburg men’s and women’s basketball teams to their “Mayor Madness Basketball” day which is a fundraiser for fireworks
- Inviting Penn State Harrisburg representatives to their “National Night Out” or other all-day events

-We also talked about the presence of international students in Middletown. Dr. Bayraktar (Chair of the International and Intercultural Affairs Committee) raised concerns about the negative comments that were posted on Press & Journal website regarding one of our international students. The President was not aware of such an incident, and is willing to make a statement about how the town is respectful of all groups. Dr. Bayraktar and Dr. Aybat shared the article with the President during the day.

-Anna Marshall and Dorca Kisare-Ressler from International Student support Services attended the meeting as well. They shared some information about some of their events such as Coffee Hour and the Holi Festival which could potentially attract the Middletown residents.

-Overall, it was a very positive first meeting with Benjamin Kapenstein and we hope to interact more frequently with him from now on.

## **B) Other Outreach Efforts:**

-Dr. Aybat met with Yvonne Harhigh, the Associate Director of Marketing Research & Communications in November 2016. Here are the highlights:

- Marketing Department is responsible for any kind of news distribution by using internal outlets such as PSH homepage, PSH newswire, Twitter, Facebook, and regional news media such as regional TV stations, newspapers, etc.
- They meet with Press & Journal regularly, if we have a public event it is directly shared with Press & Journal
- They meet with school directors every semester
- They work closely with the Office of Research & Outreach and Dr. Susannah Gal
- They need the faculty to be more involved with news distributions such as:

- Use their “Marketing Request Form” when there is a new event, story, etc. to be announced – their staff can help faculty to use it. *We might sit with them and observe the process to make suggestions such as targeting Program Coordinators*
- Use the electronic “College Calendar” to post some events (via the request form)
- Faculty should share their experience, especially regarding public-related current events, in local media + answering news-media requests
- Use “Conversation” as a medium to share their expertise  
<https://theconversation.com/us/who-we-are>

- In terms of other outreach efforts:

- We called the Middletown Council and invited them to our second meeting in Spring so that they can provide us with a better understanding. We would like to thank Glen Mazis for his efforts to get in touch with the Borough.
- We will not call the local press since Marketing Research Department is already in close contact with them.
- Dr. Hoxha tried to contact Historical Society to see whether they would be willing to help us but no one is returning the calls and emails.

### **C) Review of Our Current Charges:**

-We reviewed last 5 years' committee recommendations/implementations to revise the standing changes of the committee.

-We would like to have a representative from the Admissions Office and a representative from the Marketing Department in our committee to make sure that we understand them better and help them more efficiently.

-We will suggest to broaden the outreach by enhancing the regional connections on school basis (e.g., School of Business Administration getting closer with the Chambers of Commerce in the region).

-In terms of our enrollment charge, we will invite Rob Coffman to our next meeting to see how we can help his department.

-We will continue to make suggestions for graduate admissions such as coordinating with the Marketing Department to use the websites more efficiently (e.g., using key terms).

## **APPENDIX: OUTREACH SURVEY REPORT**

The Faculty Senate Enrollment Management and Outreach Committee conducted an online survey in November 2016 to explore ways to connect with the Middletown community.

The survey was prepared on Qualtrics and the link was shared with Penn State Harrisburg Faculty & Staff living in Middletown area via the email below.

*“Dear Colleagues,*

*You are receiving this email because this year the Faculty Senate Enrollment Management and Outreach Committee is trying to find ways to enhance Penn State Harrisburg’s relationships with the regional community, especially with Middletown.*

*Since you are (or once were) a resident of Middletown, we assume that you are closer to the Middletown community and you probably have special insight into the area. For this reason, we developed an online survey (which should take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete) to be able to hear your opinions.*

*We recognize that this is a very busy time of year for everyone on campus. However, we kindly ask that you take a few minutes to complete this survey so that Penn State Harrisburg can improve its relationship with the Middletown community.*

*The survey can be completed online at:  
[https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_bQrtcXE5Scm9hOd](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bQrtcXE5Scm9hOd)*

*Please feel free to share the survey link with Penn State Harrisburg Faculty & Staff who might be interested in this topic.*

*The committee would greatly value your participation!*

*Best regards,*

*In the name of the Enrollment Management and Outreach Committee,*

*Ozge Aybat, Ph.D.  
Committee Chair  
Assistant Professor of Marketing  
School of Business Administration  
Penn State Harrisburg”*

The Enrollment Management and Outreach Committee hereby reports the findings of the survey.

### ***A) Profile of the Participants***

- 30 Penn State Harrisburg Faculty & Staff living in Middletown area participated to our online survey
- 12 were males and 18 were females
- Average age was 47 (Range between 26 and 62 years old)
- There were 9 full-time faculty, 14 full-time staff, 5 part-time faculty, 1 part-time staff, 1 undeclared
- Years lived in Middletown ranged from 1-50 years with an average of 21 years

### ***B) Survey Findings***

#### **Question 1: “How do Middletown residents perceive Penn State Harrisburg?”**

Positive Perceptions: (mostly economic benefits)

- Good for the economy
- Students patronizing local businesses
- Pride being associated with Penn State
- View as an asset

Negative Perceptions: (mostly about partying, nuisance/disruptive, traffic problems)

#### ***1) Traffic***

- Concerned about traffic congestion, vandalism, noise, litter, and other things
- Students speeding, or the increase in international students in the area
- Traffic is going to get bad again and the rowdy parties are going to start up

#### ***2) Partying***

- Students are disrespectful, create trouble with partying
- It will get worse with partying as the campus grows
- Find students bothersome, loud in residential areas, potential for trouble
- Seen as a nuisance & are disruptive to the town
- Students are not welcome

#### **Question 2: “What is the impact of PSH in the Middletown area?”**

- There is a general understanding that PSH has a great economic impact to Middletown area
- A major economic contributor to the local economy
- Offers cultural & educational opportunities

### **Question 3: “Do Middletown Residents have any concerns/problems about PSH?”**

#### *1) Traffic*

- Concerns about lack of parking, speeding and careless/reckless or drunk driving causing potential harm to pedestrians
- Students (especially international students) not understanding traffic, pedestrian and bicycle laws.

#### *2) Partying*

- A number of respondents mentioned issues of partying and noise from student housing, leading to disruption in community members’ lives and a decrease in property value for those near campus.

#### *3) Disrespect*

- Many respondents commented on issues of disrespect towards the community and residents. Some discussed that students are disrespectful of the town, others commented that in general residents see Penn State as not respecting them or wanting to partner with them; that the university is only out for its own benefit.
- In addition to the complaints above, a number of respondents indicated that the issues go both ways – while students do contribute to some of the above behavior, residents are often set in their own ways/close-minded and are less willing to be welcoming/considerate of students.

### **Question 4: “Do Middletown residents know that they have access to PSH library, pool, events, etc.?”**

#### *1) Access related issues*

- A majority of our respondents indicated that many residents do not know about these opportunities.
- There appeared to be confusion about whether they have access to the pool. A few indicated that residents were especially “bitter about the pool” taken away from them.
- Confusion was caused partially by policy change. For example, the Gym was once accessible, but later shut down to community residents.
- Parking has been named a few times as the barrier preventing residents from utilizing PSH resources.
- PSU ID requirement is another barrier preventing residents from utilizing PSH resources, particularly Library resources, e.g., Internet access, printing, and photocopying.

#### *2) Suggestions:*

- Increase advertising, e.g., marquee and social media.
- Advertise “at consistent intervals”.
- Advertise carefully. Be cautious and clear about what resources can be accessed by community residents.

**Question 5: “What kind of events can PSH have to attract Middletown residents’ attention? When?”**

- Cultural activities such as concerts, plays, musicals, film viewings, presentations by notable speakers, etc., that could be held in the new theater, preferably on nights and weekends
- Activities for children, preferably on nights and weekends.
- Community events on campus that expressly target the Middletown community.
- PSH faculty, staff, and students in activities organized by Middletown to show that we are genuinely interested in what they are doing.
- PSH students reach out to the Middletown community.
- Advertising sporting events.

**Question 6: “How can we better reach out to Middletown community?”**

*1) Positive Student Participation in Middletown Life*

- Responses to other questions indicate that many Middletown residents view PSH students either as nuisances (they throw parties and bring traffic) or as simple consumers (purchasers of pizza, groceries, and alcohol).
- Some respondents suggested that PSH find ways for PSH students to participate meaningfully to Middletown life such as:
  - ✓ “Encourage student groups to work with local groups on community service programs.”
  - ✓ Student volunteerism as a positive form of participation. “Get involved,” one respondent suggested, “or organize more clean ups, food bank participation, and other volunteering opportunities.”
  - ✓ Partnership of groups – student clubs and Middletown organizations – with overlapping interests. This partnership might take the form of “a community garden, or a peace garden, for example.”

*2) Traffic Related Issues*

- Some respondents to the survey discuss traffic and parking issues. They suggest that PSH and Middletown work together to remedy a few salient problems with signs, speed bumps, and parking prohibitions.
- “The parked cars along both sides of Wharton just off campus are a traffic hazard and an accident waiting to happen,” wrote one person. “Could PSH discourage students from parking” on both sides of the street and insist that they park on only one?
- The same person singled out the T-intersection at Wharton and Catherine as a trouble spot. He/she wrote that the absence of a stop sign on Catherine (as you approach Wharton) is likely a hold-over from the past when the elementary school (it was easier for school buses not to have to stop at this intersection). Since the school is no longer there, perhaps it is time to insert a 3-way stop.
- “If PSH can’t work with Middletown to help solve the traffic problem that’s occurring right off campus,” the respondent wrote in exasperation, “what hope is there for reaching out to the community on other issues?”
- He/she also recommends speed bumps, presumably on Wharton.

### 3) *Hosting Events Meaningful to the Local Community*

- Several respondents suggested that PSH design local events with the Middletown community in mind.
- One respondent suggested “something about the economic development of the area.” He/she went on to urge PSH not just to invite the local community but involve them in the event. They might “speak or showcase their artwork.” (Note: In answer to other questions (not #6), some survey respondents said they would like to have a fair or concert on PSH’s fields in the summer months).
- The Seven Sorrows would like to have a mass on campus.
- Multiple respondents noted that parking at any event should be free.
- One respondent cites the Jewish Studies programming of the Holocaust Center as an example of successful PSH event planning.

### 4) *Use Middletown Communications and Forums to Reach Middletown Residents*

- Several respondents urged PSH to make use of local radio, Social Media, and Town Hall meetings.
- Radio: “Market events on the local high school radio station WMSS 91.1,” wrote one respondent, “as this hometown listens to all sports and events on that station. Reach out to the high school students and this will draw in the parents and relatives.” In short, PSH could promote events on the high school radio station during games.
- Social Media: “Position PSH as an asset to the community rather than a campus at the end of town. There is a Facebook group, ‘Middletown Residents United’ that many town residents contribute to.” Others cited this community resource.
- Town Hall: One respondent suggested that “student representatives and PSH administration regularly attend the borough council meetings.”

### 5) *Recommendations*

- First, urge student clubs and organizations to undertake volunteer opportunities in Middletown. Presently, many residents view our students as a public nuisance and community service will help rid our students of the stigma.
- Second, work with Middletown authorities to solve one or two mutually-agreed upon traffic problems. The gesture will be appreciated, as will the safer driving.
- Third, design occasional events tailored to needs and interests of Middletown community. Invite the town and offer free parking.
- Fourth, communicate with Middletown using their systems: local high school radio, their Facebook group (Middletown Residents United), and Town Hall meetings.

## Question 7: “What role would you like to see PSH play in the local community?”

### 1) *Build more of a “college town’ atmosphere”*

- Benchmark with other colleges to see how they got closer with their community
- Offer incentives to faculty to move into the community so that the town could become more like a traditional college town, rather than just a rental community for students
- Residents keep hoping that the presence of the campus will lead to someone opening a coffee shop, rather than another place to drink

### 2) *Help the community, as “They do not see our students and faculty as caring about the community”*

- Work with schools, elder homes and town officials “
- Offer services to community such as fitness classes, assistance/hobby type classes where students and community can go together and make connections
- Use the student body to promote engagement and community service activities such as:
  - ✓ cleaning up & restoration of parks
  - ✓ holiday decorating
  - ✓ PSU students attending local churches and getting involved in church activities
  - ✓ Engineering students could help rehabilitate blighted or neglected properties
  - ✓ Business students could offer business start-up help
- Use faculty to help develop class projects and club projects that meet community needs “Students at Middletown schools are known by their faculty. Could the campus help them develop a true bilingual program, or track? Would project-based high tech education in the middle school be attractive? Would incorporation of a nature-based thread be desirable, since the town and district are small?”
- Engage in environmentally conscious activities “Help extend the river walking path that runs from Columbia to Bainbridge, so that it extends to Middletown, and along the creek to connect with Hummelstown / Hershey. The town, some of its organizations, the schools, and groups like the Manada conservancy could be engaged in that project, and it could enhance the health of residents and campus members.”

### 3) *Make Penn State Harrisburg a fun place to visit*

- “Hold events that can bring residents to campus”
- “Make PSH a place to go to see performances, hear speakers, and do the usual things that other campuses seem to offer”
- “Hold festivals that feature craft vendors, food, and other events (with a celebratory atmosphere like we recently had for the 50th Anniversary We Are Weekend that brought alumni to campus)”

## Question 8: Any other comments?

### 1) *Traffic and Parking*

- Two responders commented on parking congestion near the cemetery. One suggested, “Paint parking lines along Wharton Street entrance, so people park closer together. Cars often have a lot of space between them, which could be reduced, allowing more cars to park there, and everyone would be a tiny bit closer to campus.”
- Two responders commented on pedestrian safety, indicating walking to campus can be dangerous. One responder stated that the intersection “near the old Demy school... is dangerous.” Additionally, snow makes the backroads to campus, near the cemetery, congested.
- The remaining comments were general statements of traffic concern. For example, “The growth in number of students, new housing, new buildings, etc. that PSH is experiencing is having an effect off campus as well as on campus. We need to keep in mind what problems (traffic woes, etc.) this might create and how we might help mitigate them.”

### 2) *Outreach*

- One responder suggested PSH reach out to local schools to stress the importance of higher education.
- One responder called for the reinstatement of summer programs.
- Multiple responders called for general increased communication between PSH and Middletown. For example, one responder calls for “meeting between the campus and the town, involving voices that aren’t normally heard.”

### 3) *Other comments*

- Two responders noted *Support* for this topic and improved community relations.
- One responder noted barriers to an improved relation, “Risk management is a drawback as it is currently interpreted. Students who have tried to reach into the community have been told by someone in authority that they can only hold events on campus.”
- One responder suggested PSH to make students aware of PA littering laws and noise ordinances.

Printed in the March 15, 2017 edition of the Middletown Press & Journal:

**A Loud Few Don't Speak For All**

I hear all of the time about how Middletown needs to accept Penn State Harrisburg and its students as a part of our community. Many people, including myself, believe it will play a big part in determining the future trajectory of this town. Having a University with the reputation of Penn State directly in our backyard is an advantage that many neighboring towns envy. The University has students from all different cultures and walks of life that bring new and innovative ideas to our area. They come because they're looking for a top level education while experiencing small town college life. These students will be the leaders of tomorrow and play a key role in the future success of our community and nation as a whole.

The reason for my editorial is to express my opinion loudly and clearly that I do not and will not tolerate any hate or discrimination of these students that are living and frequenting our community. I have now received multiple complaints about the general perception of international students by our residents. I will not name names and will not specifically mention what I've heard, but instead will say that all residents need to be accepting of other ethnicities and religions in our community. Having new ideas and new cultural beliefs flowing through our town is something that we should be proud of, not speak out against.

I for one, would like to welcome all students, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation. Let it be understood that discrimination of any type has no place in Middletown.