



# Delaware State University

Dover, Delaware 19901

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Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2008

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**DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY  
DOVER, DELAWARE**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
Delaware State University, Thursday, September 11, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Delaware State University was held on Thursday, September 11, 2008, in the Drs. James C. Hardcastle & Cora Norwood Selby Board Room of the Administration Building on the campus. Dr. John Land, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. John Land, Interim Chairman	Dr. Harry Williams, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. A. Richard Barros (via telephone)	Mrs. Carolyn Curry, Vice President for Development and University Relations
Dr. Lillian Lowery	Mr. Amir Mohammadi, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Mr. David Turner	Mr. Mark Farley, Vice President for Legal Affairs
Mrs. Willa Jordan	Dr. Russell Merrill, Vice President for Technology and Chief Information Officer
Mr. Charles McDowell	Dr. Charlie Wilson, Faculty Senate Chair
Mr. Wesley Perkins	Mr. Rick Costello, Athletic Director
Mr. Bennie Smith	Mrs. Terry Coleman, Executive Assistant to the President
Dr. Calvin Wilson	
Mr. James Stewart	
Dr. Matthew Mackie	
Dr. Claibourne D. Smith, Acting President Delaware State University	

Chairman John Land welcomed all to the September 11, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting. He asked for a moment of silence in observance of the anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. Following the moment of silence, Chairman Land announced while he assumes the role of Interim Chairman of the Board, that Mr. David Turner has accepted the role of Interim Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Dr. Calvin Wilson has accepted the role of Interim Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. Once the University has appointed a president, he would resume his roles as vice chair of the Board of Trustees and chair of the B&G Committee.

**9/11/08**

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting of the Board of Trustees.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2008 special meeting of the Board of Trustees.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2008 special meeting of the Board of Trustees.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Following passing of the motions, Chairman Land called for Committee Reports.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ( Dr. Calvin Wilson, interim chair)**

Chairman Land asked Athletic Director, Rick Costello to introduce the presentation of the Men's Basketball Team's international tour to Trinidad on August 10-18, 2008. Mr. Rick Costello gave way to the Head Coach of Men's Basketball, Gregory Jackson who gave brief remarks regarding the international tour.

Coach Jackson made his presentation according to a printed handout (memo attached) and spoke of the cultural and academic dynamics as well as the success of the trip. He yielded to four student athletes on the Men's Basketball Team who spoke of their experiences during the first annual T & T Hoops Classic in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Chairman Land thanked Coach Jackson, the players and Rick Costello for planning a successful international experience for DSU student athletes. He yielded to Dr. Wilson who gave brief remarks.

Dr. Wilson congratulated the coach, team members, Rick Costello and his department for representing the University well during their international tour. He commented positively on the stadium banners, corporate sponsorship and applauded them for their efforts.

Dr. Wilson stated that the Student Affairs Committee met with the Student Government Association leaders on September 9, 2008 and discussed their vision, goals, unity and leadership planning. He mentioned that they have a group called the "Street Team" who volunteer and assist SGA with event planning.

9/11/08

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Student Affairs Committee.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (Dr. A. Richard Barros, chair)**

Dr. Barros reported via teleconference and called everyone's attention to the Provost's Report contained in the Board of Trustees' Book. There was an anonymous gift from someone with no connection to the University. Per Dr. Harry Williams, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Yvonne Johnson created a proposal for the music lab and the opportunity and timing met with a \$445K gift. Dr. Williams yielded to Dr. Caroline Glackin, asst. vice president for Development, who stated that the individual does not want to be acknowledged for the gift.

There were no items for Board action.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Educational Policy Committee.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (Mr. Marvin Lawrence, chair)**

Mr. Charles McDowell reported on behalf of the Finance Committee in Mr. Lawrence's absence. Mr. McDowell reported that the committee met in June to recommend the budget for approval. The end of year numbers should be the same and an audit is being conducted and the report will be submitted to the Board of Trustees later. The administration is reviewing the budget in light of enrollment figures to determine if any adjustments are needed. There were no items for Board action.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Finance Committee.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Land announced that an Executive Session would take place after all agenda items were concluded.

9/11/08

**THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS (Mr. James Stewart, chair)**

Mr. Stewart reported that the Development and Investments Committee met on September 11, 2008 and highlighted the following:

Investments:

- Approximately 2/3 of the endowment has been transferred to BNY Mellon.
- We are reviewing the investment and spending policies.
- We will make a recommendation on these policies at the next Board Meeting.
- Once completed, we will consolidate entire endowment with BNY Mellon.
- Arranging a \$3M line of credit with BNY Mellon.

Development:

- Reviewed the FY 08 annual fund – raised \$1.2M.
- Down from FY 07 because of large gift from Longwood in '07 (\$1.1 million).
- Opportunities on the giving side – preparing for a capital campaign.
- University has software to input prospective donors (Raisers Edge).
- Wealth analysis has also been performed.
- Will make a recommendation on additional staffing.

There were no items for Board action.

Chairman Land returned to the chair and commented on the outstanding meeting today of the Development and Investment Committee and stated that it takes money to make money.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Committee on Development and Investments.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE (Mr. Jose Echeverri, chair)**

Chairman Land reported in the absence of Mr. Echeverri. He stated that the auditors, Clifton Gunderson, have been collecting final documents for the audit which should be completed on time.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Audit Committee.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

9/11/08

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE (Dr. John Land, chair)**

Chairman Land yielded to Dr. Lillian Lowery who reported on behalf of the B & G Committee the following projects:

- The Wellness Center projected completion date is scheduled for the end of January 2009 or early February 2009.
- The Student Center foundation is set, structural steel should be done within nine weeks and the projected completion date is October/November 2009.
- The Swimming Pool will be 10,000 sq. ft. and will be attached to the Wellness Center and it has a projected completion date of June 2009.

There were no items for Board action.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Mr. Charles McDowell, chair)**

Mr. McDowell did not have any items to report.

**THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE (Mr. Wesley Perkins, chair)**

Mr. Perkins reported on the following:

- The committee is scheduled to meet for the first time on September 30<sup>th</sup> for an approach to finding an executive search firm.
- The committee seeks to establish communication with stakeholders around the State with the selection process of the next president.
- The search firms' selection will have nationwide exposure.
- The committee wants to maintain contact with interested people to develop a communications system.

Chairman Land returned to the chair and thanked Mr. Perkins for chairing this committee.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Presidential Search Committee.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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Chairman Land gave way to President Smith.

**THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Dr. Claibourne D. Smith, acting president)**

President Smith commented that he was honored that the Board of Trustees would entrust him with the daunting task and role as Acting President of the University. He stated that he was committed to the University and was grateful to the staff and faculty.

President Smith reflected on his first day on the job. He commented that he had lunch with the students in the University Café. He said the students are outstanding and that they are thrilled to be here, and look for opportunities to work with people who care about them. He stated that the students indicated it was their first opportunity to have lunch with the President informally. He commented that there would be an on-going period to take time to meet with student leaders, to reinforce those interactions, and to see and be seen with the students.

President Smith highlighted the following:

- International collaboration with Mass Communications students working this summer at Beijing Sports University covering the Olympics.
- Five Mass Communications students from China are here for a semester.
- Dwayne Bell, Public Safety Officer won two gold medals and one silver medal during the International Police and Fire Olympics.
- Acknowledgment of the following personnel changes: Dr. Harry Williams, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; Dr. Paul Bryant, vice president for Student Affairs; Dr. Bradley Skelcher, associate provost and acting dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Young S. Kwak, interim dean of the College of Business; Dr. Akwasi Osei, interim associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Michael Casson, interim associate dean of the College of Business.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the President's Report.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Land asked for public comments. The following individuals signed up for public comment: Mr. Clarence Selby and Dr. Marquee King.

**9/11/08**

Mr. Selby commented in his capacity as president of Local Union 1267 at the University. He stated that he represented 75 members of the maintenance division and that there were issues related to a labor contract that needed to be addressed with regards to negotiations, and unfair labor practices. He commented that he wanted to get to the bottom of the issue before it reached this level and asked that the Board of Trustees hear them out.

Dr. Marquee King commented on behalf of several DSU Alums and current students of the MARC Program who were in attendance. She stated that the group's intent was to request that there be a change in the directorship of the MARC Program in that Dr. F. Helmy be reinstated as the director. She thanked the President and Provost for being available to meet with them and inviting them to the lunch presentation held earlier today. She commented that the group looked forward to an amicable and swift resolution to this matter.

Chairman Land thanked each individual for their comments and made the following announcements:

- A reception for faculty and staff would be held at 6:00 p.m. at the President's House today.
- Faculty research presentations would take place in the Multi-purpose Room from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. today.

**Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 2:30 p.m.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting reconvened in open session at 3:35 p.m.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

John Land, Chairman

Cynthia Y. Williams, Board Secretary



**DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY  
DOVER, DELAWARE  
ADDENDUM OF MOTIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2008**

1. Approved the minutes of the meeting of June 12, 2008.
2. Approved the minutes of the special meeting of June 26, 2008.
3. Approved the minutes of the special meeting of August 20, 2008.
4. Accepted the report of the Student Affairs Committee.
5. Accepted the report of the Educational Policy Committee.
6. Accepted the report of the Committee on Finance.
7. Accepted the report of the Committee on Development and Investments.
8. Accepted the report of the Audit Committee.
9. Accepted the report of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds.
10. Accepted the report of the Presidential Search Committee.
11. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
12. The Board reconvened in regular session.
13. Approved adjournment.