



**PRESIDENT**

Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Trustee  
Slippery Rock University of  
Pennsylvania

June 7, 2020

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Mr. John "Jack" Wabby, Trustee  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

Dear Trustees,

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Ms. Milissa S. Bauer, Trustee  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania

Well, this is it. This is my final update as the President of PACT. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Jack Wabby will take over as President and begin sending out these updates.

**SECRETARY**

Ms. Mary Coploff, Trustee  
Lock Haven University of  
Pennsylvania

It is hard to believe that I have been the President for two years. And what a two year stretch it has been! I took office just after the Rand report came out with a recommendation that the system eliminate Councils of Trustees. I remember joking with my predecessor, Harold Shields, that I would have the distinction of being the last PACT President.

**TREASURER**

Ms. Karen Russell, Trustee  
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

**EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Mr. Ed Edwards, Trustee  
Bloomsburg University of  
Pennsylvania

But that didn't happen. Instead, PACT and the influence of the trustees grew. Today PACT and the PASSHE trustees probably have more involvement with the future of the system than at any time in the past. And that is a credit to all of you for standing up and being part of the redesign process.

Mr. James Raith, Trustee  
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

Mr. Stephen DeFrank, Trustee  
California University of Pennsylvania

Instead of sitting back and letting others decide what the role of the trustee should be, if they even would have one, we united to define our roles. Through PACT, we gave the Governor's office recommendations on how trustees should be selected. We developed a Trustee Accountability document that better defined what a "good" trustee does. We worked with the Chancellor's office to better utilize the trustees in an advocacy role. And most importantly, we demonstrated that trustees need to be key players in the redesign discussion.

Mr. Marcus S. Lingenfelter, Trustee  
East Stroudsburg University of  
Pennsylvania

Mr. Dan Highan, Trustee  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Mr. Nathan T. Spade, Trustee  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Richard L. Frerichs, Trustee  
Millersville University of  
Pennsylvania

Mr. Mike Ross, Trustee  
Shippensburg University of  
Pennsylvania

The bottom line: no one is talking about eliminating trustees anymore.

Honorable Stephen Kinsey, Trustee  
West Chester University of  
Pennsylvania

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But we can't "declare victory" and become complacent. Our new PACT leadership must continue to work to include the trustees in the "redesign process" and trustees must remain committed to "systemness" and not just focus on their quarterly on-campus meeting. All of us should block out September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and plan on attending the PACT Conference so that our voices can be heard and the role of the trustee remains relevant.

A quick legislative update. The House bills that would give more power to the Board of Governors, HB 2171 and HB 2173, are awaiting their third consideration in the House. HB 2173 has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.

If you remember, the PACT Board and the Council Chairs held a meeting in early March to discuss these bills. The biggest concern that the group had was that the bills as initially written would have granted the Board of Governors the ability to close an institution. The bills were subsequently changed to remove that ability. While I would not say that PACT's objections to this portion of the bill "caused" the revision, I would say that PACT's concerns were noted and helped lead to the changes.

As I told you last week, the PACT elections were held electronically and the following individuals were elected to serve as your leadership group for the next two years:

**President – Jack Wabby (Kutztown)**

**1ST VP – Milissa Bauer (Clarion)**

**2nd VP – Dr. Richard Frerichs (Millersville)**

**Treasurer – Karen Russell (Mansfield)**

**Secretary – Mary Coploff (Lock Haven)**

I believe it is a good group and a good blend of viewpoints. But it will be up to all of you to hold them accountable to representing the role of the trustees within the system. All of us have worked hard to ensure that trustees have a voice in the future of PASSHE and we need to make sure that voice continues to be heard.

Most of you have heard my story about growing up on the Shippensburg campus and watching the "important" people walk around. For the past two years, I have been blessed to work with

many of those “important” people. Being the PACT President has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

I want to close by thanking everyone who has been so supportive over the past two years.

Chancellor Dan Greenstein – It has been an honor to be around someone as brilliant and as insightful as you. To have had you reach out and work with me is more than I could have ever expected.

BOG Chair Cynthia Shapira – Thank you for working with me and becoming a true friend. You embraced PACT’s efforts to improve governance and helped in so many different ways.

The Chancellor’s staff – Randy Goin, Cody Jones, Sarah Bauder, et all - Thank you for providing the insight and information that PACT needed to move forward.

Charissa Williams – Your efforts as PACT’s administrative assistant were outstanding. Thank you for giving me the info I needed and for keeping me in line when necessary.

Jack Wabby and JD Dunbar – My two PACT wingmen. Thanks for your guidance and for keeping me on the rails.

PACT Executive Board – you are the backbone of PACT. You were the reason we have been so successful over the past two years. I can only imagine the heights you will take PACT to with our new leadership.

PASSHE Trustees – Thanks for all of your kind words and “gentle’ suggestions over the past two years. I will always treasure the friendships that I have gained while serving as the President of PACT. You are truly one of the greatest collection of people that I have ever encountered.

See you in September,



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