



Policy Hearing: Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Redesign

PA Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing, co-hosted by Sen. Lindsey Williams & Sen. Judy Schwank

Hearing date: May 17, 10:00 AM

TESTIFIER BIOS:

Dr. Jamie Martin, President of APSCUF

Dr. Jamie Martin is the President of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties. Martin, a professor and chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, begins her two-year term in June. She is the second woman elected APSCUF president.

Martin previously served three terms as APSCUF's vice president, during which she was a member of the faculty and coaches' negotiations teams in 2015–16 and 2019–20. At IUP's APSCUF chapter, her service included department representative to representative council, delegate to legislative assembly, grievance chair, meet-and-discuss, and executive council.

APSCUF represents more than 5,000 faculty and coaches at the State System universities: Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock, and West Chester Universities of Pennsylvania.

Cameron O'Neill, Junior at Bloomsburg University (Honors College)

- Philosophy and Spanish, double major
- Class of Winter 22'
- Honors College
- Husky Ambassador, Recording Secretary
- Husky Orientation and Welcome Leader (HOWL)

- Undergraduate Student Representative, Open Educational Resources (OER)

Justina Arena, Junior at California University

- Justina Arena, Junior, Earth Science: Meteorology and Earth Science: Climate Studies, California University of Pennsylvania

Ross Brumagin, President AFSCME Local 2329, Edinboro University High Voltage Electrician

Keeping jobs local pays off for Edinboro University. Ross Brumagin has been presented with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Member of the Year Award in the past.

He has also recognized for dedicating his personal time to union training throughout the state.

He works at Edinboro University with an advanced skillset as a High Voltage Electrician.

Shawn O'Dell, President AFSCME Local 2360, Lock Haven University Clerk Typist 3

Shawn O'Dell is the President of AFSCME Local 2360, representing more than 150 employees at Lock Haven University.

Local 2360 represents custodians, groundskeepers, secretaries, carpenters, electricians, locksmiths, mechanics, and a wide array of support staff at the university.

Mr. O'Dell works as a Clerk Typist 3 at LHU in our Center for Global Engagement, as well as our Global Honors Program. Not only is he an 18-year employee of LHU; he is an alum. He started college at age 35 and earned my BA in English. He has two children who are also LHU graduates.

Dr. Marc Stier, Director, Pennsylvania Budget & Policy Center

Marc Stier has had an illustrious career as an activist, teacher, and writer. Prior to joining PBPC as Director in 2015, Marc has served as the executive director of Penn ACTION, where he worked to protect funding for education and women's health care and expand Social Security; the Pennsylvania Director of Health Care for American Now, which led the grassroots effort in support of what became the Affordable Care Act in the state; and the Health Care Campaign Manager for SEIU Pennsylvania State Council.

Stier was an academic for 25 years. He has a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and a doctorate from Harvard University, both in political science. He has taught at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; City College of New York; the University of North Carolina, Charlotte; and Temple University, where he was the associate director and internet coordinator of the Intellectual Heritage Program.

Stier is the author of numerous papers on political philosophy, the history of political thought and American politics. He is the author of the book *Grassroots Advocacy and Health Care Reform*, published in 2013. He recently finished two new books, *Liberalism and Communitarianism Revisited* and *Civilization and Its Contents: Reflections on Sex and the Culture Wars*. He also is co-editor of *Ambiguity in the Western Tradition*.

Dan Greenstein, PASSHE Chancellor

Dr. Daniel Greenstein became the fifth chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education on September 4, 2018. In that role, he serves as chief executive officer of the State System, which operates Pennsylvania's 14 public universities, serving nearly 100,000 degree-seeking students and thousands more enrolled in certificate and other career-development programs. The chancellor works with the Board of Governors to recommend and develop overall policies for the System.

Greenstein previously led the Postsecondary Success strategy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, where he worked with other higher education leaders across the country on initiatives designed to raise educational-attainment levels and to promote economic mobility, especially among low-income and minority students. He developed and implemented a national strategy for increasing the number of degrees awarded and for reducing the attainment gaps among majority and non-majority students at U.S. colleges and universities.

Before joining the foundation, Greenstein was Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Programs for the University of California (UC) system. In that role, he oversaw system-wide academic planning and programs, including the University of California Press; the California Digital Library; the UC system's Education Abroad Program; internship programs in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento; and UC Online Education.

Greenstein has created and led several internet-based academic information services in the United States and the United Kingdom, and served on boards and acted in strategic consulting roles for educational, cultural heritage, and information organizations. He began his academic career as a senior lecturer in Modern History at Glasgow University in Scotland.

He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford. An enthusiastic cyclist, Dan and his wife, Melissa, have two children.

Aaron Walton, President, Cheyney University

President Aaron A. Walton, a proven, results-driven leader with 40 years of experience in corporate level management, was appointed as Cheyney University of Pennsylvania's Interim President on May 31, 2017. Because of the unprecedented progress he spearheaded during his first five months, President Walton was elected as permanent President by the Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) on November 13, 2017.

President Walton is a fearless champion for Cheyney University and its students. He brings expertise in strategic planning and organizational turnarounds, and has addressed the University's challenges head-on while leading the effort to define a new trajectory for the University. In his inaugural address to Cheyney's faculty and staff in June 2017, President Walton outlined a clear vision for the University — to produce students who excel in academics, character, and social responsibility. Through the University's strategic planning process, these three pillars ultimately became the foundation of Cheyney's new Vision [link the word Vision to Vision, Mission and Values page]: to be known as the premier educational model for academic excellence, character development, and social responsibility.

A former Senior Vice President of Highmark, Inc., one of the nation's leading healthcare providers, President Walton was one of nine principal officers responsible for providing overall management and direction of all corporate activities nationally. During his tenure at Highmark, he established and implemented a number of strategic healthcare initiatives that yielded community and company-wide growth and advancement, including an award-winning program that was one of the first programs in America to address childhood obesity and bullying. He was also instrumental in establishing the Children's Health Insurance Program, better known as C.H.I.P., which has become a national model.

While a senior executive at Highmark, and in his subsequent retirement, he served as Vice Chair of the PASSHE Board of Governors, where he was also Chair of Academic & Student Affairs, and Chair of Human Resources. President Walton was also a longtime member of California University of Pennsylvania's Council of Trustees, and chair from 1999 to 2003.

Prior to being tapped to lead Cheyney University, President Walton served as co-chair of the Cheyney Task Force appointed by the Board of Governors. The Task Force developed and approved, a "conceptual framework" for a new business model for Cheyney which included the creation of the [Institute For The Contemporary African American Experience \(ICAAE\)](#). On July 31, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf joined President Walton and other officials on Cheyney's campus to announce the official launch of the ICAAE.

President Walton has held both leadership and advisory roles on more than 35 community boards. Some of his affiliations include the August Wilson Center for African American Culture (Chair), Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Polemarch Pittsburgh Alumni Chapter, the Kappa Scholarship Endowment Fund (Founding Board Member), NEED (Negro Emergency Educational

Drive) where he served as Chair, The 100 Black Men of Western Pennsylvania, and Sire Archon, Rho Boule, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

President Walton earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from California University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Public Management (MPM) from the Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. He and his wife, Dr. Gloria M. Walton, have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Dale Pehrsson, President, Clarion University and Interim President, Edinboro University

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson became interim president of Edinboro University on Dec. 31, 2020. She will continue in her role as president of Clarion University and as lead for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Western Integration. The integration would involve integrating Edinboro, Clarion and California University of Pennsylvania into one unit. The implementation plan for the integration, part of the State System's Redesign Initiative, will be presented to the System's Board of Governors in April.

During her tenure at Clarion, where she has served as president since July 1, 2018, the university has seen its highest retention rates in 29 years, experienced back-to-back increases in the size of the freshman class for the first time in 13 years, and had the highest fundraising total since 2013.

Additionally, she launched the Office of Diversity, Equity and Multicultural Affairs, which brings together professionals who will work together to develop policies and procedures to advance student and employee equity, diversity, inclusion, multicultural and international education, and social justice.

Prior to leading Clarion University, she had been dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Central Michigan University since 2012. Pehrsson has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, beginning her academic career as an affiliate faculty member and clinical supervisor for counselor education at Idaho State University in 1991. Previously, she worked in the healthcare field, as both a counselor and registered nurse.

Pehrsson epitomizes the American Dream through education, first earning associate degrees in liberal arts and nursing, then returning to school to earn progressive degrees. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in liberal studies from the University of State of New York-Albany. She holds a Master of Education degree in curriculum, instruction and supervision, a Master of Counseling degree, and a Doctor of Education degree in counselor education and counseling, all from Idaho State University. She also studied art therapy at the University of Illinois-Chicago as well as metalsmithing and studio art as a post-doctoral student at Idaho State University.

She spent a year as a presidential fellow with the American Council of Education, where she focused on faculty and staff development, board of trustees relations, fundraising and capital campaigns, finance, accreditation, inclusive excellence, advancing technology, strategic planning, community engagement and service learning.

She was a faculty member and chair of the Department of Counselor Education at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, after serving as an associate professor of counselor education at Oregon State University. She has been a faculty member at Portland State University and Sam Houston State University in Texas.

Pehrsson has worked as an elementary school counselor and a child and family counselor. She and her husband, Dr. Bob Pehrsson, founded a clinic for children with literacy needs and learning disabilities and was chief operating officer for patient and clinical services at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Idaho. She was associate director of nursing and patient services and captain of the maternal transport Life Flight team at an Idaho medical center. She has worked as a registered nurse at the Lexington School for the Deaf in New York City.

Dr. Pehrsson is a licensed and nationally certified counselor and a member of various professional organizations. She served for two years as president of the Michigan Council of Deans for Education at State Colleges and Universities and remains a member of the group's Leadership Council. She has authored or co-authored numerous scholarly publications, including a peer-reviewed book titled "Core Issues in Child Counseling."

An avid cyclist, Pehrsson enjoys riding the trails of western Pennsylvania, hiking throughout the country, reading, watching old movies and drawing.

Mia Swales, Student Trustee, Lock Haven University

Lock Haven University Student Trustee/Graduate Assistant of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

My name is Mia Swales. I am from Lusby, Maryland. I graduated from Lock Haven University December 2019 in communication with a minor in sociology. I am currently still a student at Lock Haven University in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.