BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

PROVOST’S REPORT: “GLOBAL PENN STATE”

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PENN STATER CONFERENCE CENTER HOTEL
Good afternoon. Before I get started with my official report, I would like to acknowledge two individuals who are serving Penn State in vital roles. They are Marcus Whitehurst, who was officially named the Vice Provost for Educational Equity in August, and Lance Kennedy-Phillips, who in October assumed the role of Vice Provost for Planning and Assessment. If both of you will please stand and be recognized.

I recently traveled to the United Kingdom with Michael Adewumi, Vice Provost for Global Programs, and had the opportunity to immerse myself in thinking about the concept we call “Global Penn State,” and what it means to become a truly global university. It’s an important question at an important time.

Coincidentally, this week is International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and Department of Education that celebrates the diversity of voices that have studied abroad and the benefits of international education and exchange. This annual initiative drives the development of programs that prepare Americans to live and work in a globally engaged environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States. Personally, of course, I would not be standing before you today were it not for the tremendous opportunity that I had to pursue my graduate studies in the United States, and I am extraordinarily grateful for what that has afforded me.
This week also happens to be Global Entrepreneurship Week, the world’s largest celebration of innovators and job creators, who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth, and expand human welfare. Among the 34,000 related events occurring this week in more than 150 countries, numerous entrepreneurship-focused seminars and lectures are being held on many Penn State campuses.

Meanwhile, in light of the terrorist attacks one week ago in Paris, I want to note now that we’ve also been thinking about the popular Study Abroad opportunities available through the Office of Global Programs to our students, eight of whom are studying in France this semester and have been confirmed safe. The Study Abroad program is an essential part of our global strategy, and we have protocols in place to ensure our students’ health and safety and to manage and respond to emergent or crisis situations. I’ll be discussing this in more detail later in my presentation.

**JONES – Slide 3: Global Engagement, Diversity Are Key Parts of Strategic Plan**

As many of you know, “Enhancing Global Engagement” is one of six foundations articulated in Penn State’s soon-to-be released University-wide strategic plan. Another is “Fostering and Embracing a Diverse World,” which is essential to educating and preparing students for life in a complex, changing society. Both are integral to a truly global Penn State.
Today I want to talk about Global Penn State, which is evolving and growing substantially to meet demands for broader multicultural awareness and engagement, not only at all of Penn State’s campuses, but around the world as well. And I want to start with some contextual information that reveals how vital Global Penn State is to the University now, and how much more important it inevitably will be in the coming years.

Statistics released this week by the Institute of International Education reveal that one in 10 U.S. undergraduate learners studies abroad before graduating. Nearly one in four U.S. students studying abroad are “STEM” majors – focused on science, technology, engineering, and math. Meanwhile, this year has seen a 10 percent increase of international learners studying in the United States. The total of 974,926—nearly 1 million students—is a record high.

So, how do we fit in? It all starts with the University’s Vision, that “Penn State will be a global leader in learning, discovery, and engagement that fosters innovation, embraces diversity in all its forms, and inspires achievement that will impact the world in positive and enduring ways.” Ultimately, to fulfill this vision, we must be engaged globally, and that in turn supports our tripartite mission of teaching, research, and service.
Building a Global Penn State requires enhancing global knowledge and awareness by sending students, faculty, and staff abroad; internationalizing the University by bringing non-U.S.-born students and scholars to our campuses; and establishing a network of partnerships that enables the University to pursue its mission worldwide.

As teachers, administrators, and leaders at Penn State, we must prepare our students for the ever-changing, interconnected world in which they will live and work. This is what our employers now demand in an era of global competitiveness. And, as an institution, Penn State must set the course toward real global leadership, which often will be achieved not unilaterally, but instead through vital partnerships with other institutions and organizations. International collaborations are on the rise, in part because so many of the challenges that we face are complex and global in nature. They cannot be addressed fully by one institution or organization, or even one country.

There are three main strategies for moving Global Penn State forward: Go, Come, and Partner. “Go” means to expand and diversify our Study Abroad enterprise. “Come” means to increase and diversify our international student population. And “Partner” means to build transformational, strategic partnerships around the world. All of these are necessary for Penn State to attain and retain global relevance.
JONES – Slide 9: Our Study Abroad Participation

How are we doing in these areas? Let’s start with “Go”: Study Abroad participation. We send more than 2,500 students overseas every year, which represents a 23 percent increase over the past five years. In the 2013-2014 academic year, 2,581 Penn State students took part in Learning Abroad programs in 54 countries.

JONES – Slide 10: Comparative Study Abroad Data

Data from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation show that Penn State is highly competitive with peer institutions when it comes to Study Abroad participation and the percent of graduates who had studied overseas, though we want and expect to boost our numbers in both categories.

JONES – Slide 11: Our Changing Demographics

Next we have “Come”: Increasing and diversifying our international student population. The demographics of international learners at Penn State has changed substantively in the past few years, with an 86 percent increase in non-U.S.-resident learners since 2009, and the number of international undergraduate students surging to exceed the number of international graduate students.

JONES – Slide 12: Diversity of Student Origin

From where are these students coming? Historically, individuals from China, South Korea, and India have accounted for more than 55 percent of the total international student population at Penn State, and that’s been consistent even as we
more than doubled international student enrollment from fall 2008 to fall 2014. Diversification of students’ countries of origin remains a challenge, but we have some great success stories. For instance, in fall 2006, we had only two students from Kazakhstan enrolled at Penn State. In fall 2012, however, we welcomed 123 Kazak students, thanks in large part to our strong partnership with the Kazak government.

**JONES – Slide 13: How We Build Partnerships Now**

And finally, “Partner.” When it comes to building important partnerships, Penn State has made great strides in the past several years. We now have a central database for international agreements, templates for common collaborations, and articulation agreement guidelines and policies.

**JONES – Slide 14: Global Engagement Network**

Penn State’s Global Engagement Network, or GEN—with its pillars of global citizenship for students, faculty, and staff, and global leadership in scholarship and international engagement—provides a strategic focal point and support infrastructure for many global activities. GEN—which is organically developed, faculty-driven, and administratively enabled by our Office of Global Programs—increases Penn State’s global presence and relevance, and ultimately gets us the best return on investment by concentrating our efforts in a few strategic and carefully selected places around the world.
Our current GEN partners span the globe, as you can see, and going forward we expect future engagements to be more thematic in nature, driven by identified global challenges.

One example is a collaborative network focused on global health, with multi-lateral relationships among geographically dispersed partners. Our role in addressing challenges such as global health will ensure our worldwide relevance and prominence over time.

The photo you see here is from the ‘Penn State Prays for Paris’ vigil on Tuesday night, attended by more than 1,000 students. I find it evocative of what we’ve talked about today – a truly global Penn State. And so, given the recent events in Paris, I think it is appropriate to conclude my presentation by discussing risks and our obligations related to global engagement, including our Study Abroad offerings. We have many plans and protocols in place to mitigate risk, and they evolve as events warrant.

When Global Programs, Risk Management, our international health and evacuation insurer, or some other unit becomes aware that our students, faculty, or staff are in a location that has become dangerous, we check our inventory of all from Penn State who may be in that region. This is becoming much easier to accomplish with the
Office of Global Programs’ integration of the Travel Safety Network, our custom-built, web-based Travel Registry and Risk Management System, where we register international travel itineraries. After checking the inventory, we then reach out through all available means to account for the safety of travelers and to determine if they need immediate assistance. The Office of Global Programs also uses a Study Abroad Management System, called Studio Abroad, the tool by which students research and apply for study abroad programs and that serves as a central repository for students’ contact information.

We routinely advise sheltering-in-place, and give specific advice about places and things to avoid. However, if the situation is precarious enough to warrant moving people to safety, we have resources available 24/7 to do so. All of this is accomplished through a network of central units at University Park, regardless of which campus the travelers are from.

**JONES – Slide 18: Crisis Plans and Protocols**

If there is a significant catastrophe or incident that affects one or all of our students in a particular location or group, we may activate our International Crisis Response Team, which involves representatives from Student Affairs, Strategic Communications, Global Engagement and Operations, and several other units. We also are always in contact with the U.S. Department of State when situations occur internationally that may have an impact on Penn State faculty, staff, or students.
As an example: Earlier this week, acting with an abundance of caution, we postponed two campus-based embedded programs scheduled for next week in France, mainly in Paris. This was a collaborative decision involving my office, Global Programs, the Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, the campus leadership, Risk Management, and the Office of General Counsel.

As Penn State has a more global presence, it becomes even more important for us to be connected, communicative, and collaborative. We have tools and are developing more, as well as policies that help us to be more vigilant amid the heightened dangers in today's world.

**JONES – Slide 19: Global Penn State: Key Takeaways**

Ultimately, Penn State is an emerging global University that requires ongoing integration of international perspectives across the University community and in all components of the University’s mission. It's a big, but important job. An enhanced focus on worldwide engagement through Global Penn State is vital to our work in the 21st century, providing a vehicle for Penn State's impact to be extended beyond the Commonwealth to locations around the globe.

**JONES – Slide 20: Thank You**

Thank you. I welcome your questions or comments.